PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
25 June 2007—12 July

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* *The Queen has signified her intention of conferring peerages of the United Kingdom for life on Professor Sir Ara Darzi, Sir Digby Jones, Sir Mark Malloch Brown, KCMG, Shriti Vadera and Admiral Sir Alan West, GCB, DSC*

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 25 June 2007

DEFENCE

Security Normalisation (Northern Ireland)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): As part of the announcement of normalisation made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 1 August 2005, we undertook to reduce the number of military bases in Northern Ireland to the 14 core sites named in the Security Annexe of the Joint Declaration. We have since reported that we will in future only require 10 of those 14 core sites.

Since 1 August 2005 we have successfully undertaken a major programme of work to remove 37 years worth of military infrastructure. At one time there were 106 military sites in Northern Ireland and even at the beginning of the security normalisation period less than two years ago there were 44 sites.

The departure of troops from Bessbrook Mill today marks a key step in the delivery of tranche 3 of Security Normalisation as set out in the revised Annexe to the Joint Declaration on 1 August 2005. Of the other sites to be closed in this tranche, the observation posts at the Police Service of Northern Ireland Rosemount and Masonic Base in Londonderry have already been vacated and, in the case of Masonic Base, handed to Defence Estates for return to the landowners. We are on schedule to vacate Harmony House, Lisburn; Drumadd Barracks, Armagh; and Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh by 31 July 2007. This will mark the completion of the work set out in the Joint Declaration with the exception of Moscow Camp, Belfast, which will be vacated by the end of the year. Following my statements of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 20-21WS, and 12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 34WS, work to vacate St Lucia Barracks, Omagh; and to close Laurel Hill House, Coleraine is expected to be completed by 31 July 2007; and plans to close St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena by 31 March 2008 and Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly in April 2008 remain on schedule.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding (2008-2011)

The Minister for Schools (Jim Knight): This statement relates to funding for schools, early years and 14-16 funding for 2008-09 to 2010-2011.

1. In March of this year the Department launched a consultation on changes to the school funding system to be implemented over the coming comprehensive spending review period—2008-09 to 2010-11. The proposals continued the programme of reform we started when we introduced the Dedicated Schools Grant and multi-year budgets for schools for the period 2006-08. They set out a series of evolutionary changes to the distribution of funding to local authorities and schools, alongside more far reaching proposals to deal with the significant developments at 14-16 and for early years.

2. I am today publishing a summary of the responses to the consultation and placing a copy of that summary in the Library of the House. I am grateful to all those who responded to the consultation, and in particular to our national partners with whom we have been discussing detailed implementation issues in parallel with the consultation.

3. Many of the Government's proposals were welcomed by respondents to the consultation. But it is also clear from some of the responses, and from the discussions that we have had with stakeholders throughout the consultation period, that there remain issues where further work will be required: the distribution methodology for Dedicated Schools Grant in the long term, and the role and functions of the Schools Forum are two examples.

4. Over the past ten years the Government have invested record amounts in education: funding per pupil has increased by £1,800 per pupil—a 66 per cent. increase in real terms. The comprehensive spending review settlement will mean that schools funding will continue to increase for each of the next three years, although not at the high levels seen in recent years. This demonstrates our continuing commitment to raise standards for all young people, and schools and local authorities have a key role to play over the next three years, and three of our key priorities for them are: taking the next steps on personalisation of learning; ensuring every school provides access to the core offer of extended services; and implementing the extension of the free entitlement to early years education, while increasing its flexibility.

5. That is why we have decided that the Dedicated Schools Grant will continue to be distributed using the spend plus method for the next three years: all authorities will receive a basic per pupil increase each year; and all authorities will receive funding for our priorities on top of that. We will announce in the autumn the basic increase and the funding for Ministerial priorities for each of the next three years. This will deliver the funding to all authorities for our priorities - reverting to a single formula at this time would not do so.

6. But we appreciate there are arguments in favour of a single formula, primarily that it provides a more transparent way of distributing schools funding to local authorities; and our long term aim is to move back to a single formula for distributing DSG. That is why we are announcing a fundamental review of the formula for distributing schools and early years funding to local authorities: the outcome of the review will be a single transparent formula available for use from 2011-2012 onwards. We will set out terms of reference for the review in July, and will work closely with external partners on it.

7. Narrowing the achievement gap between children of different backgrounds will remain one of our key aims—we want all children to succeed, whatever their background. Ensuring that the distribution of funding

takes account of deprivation will therefore continue to be a critical issue over the next three years, at both national and local level. Where our priorities demand that funding be weighted to take account of deprivation we will use a new measure to distribute Dedicated Schools Grant, based on tax credit data, which will reflect much better the circumstances of the children in an authority's schools. Alongside this, we will make available additional funding for children from deprived backgrounds who go to school in authorities where the overall level of deprivation is low.

8. These two measures complement the action we are already taking on deprivation funding: we have asked all authorities to review their formulae for funding schools to ensure that they properly reflect the funding for deprivation distributed to them through Dedicated Schools Grant in 2007-08. We are monitoring progress on this, and have made guidance available to local authorities; in addition we will be asking them to submit a further statement in the autumn setting out in detail their plans for the CSR period. Where progress is not adequate there will be further challenge and support.

9. Multi-year allocations of funding for local authorities and schools have been welcomed as providing a better basis for forward planning, and for longer term, more strategic decision making. However, there is a need to reflect changes in circumstances that could not be foreseen at the beginning of a three-year funding period. We will therefore make available a grant to local authorities who, during the three year period, experience exceptional increases in pupil numbers, both in overall terms and in the numbers of children for whom English is not the first language.

10. There will be a sharper focus over the next three years on achieving the greatest possible value for money from the resources we invest schools: that is a shared responsibility for schools, local authorities and central government. Schools will need to think carefully about how they use the funding we make available to them, and we will work closely with them and their local authorities to ensure they have the tools they need to plan and use their resources most efficiently and effectively.

11. The Minimum Funding Guarantee will continue to deliver a minimum per pupil increase in each of the next three years. However, the assessment of cost pressures will reflect our expectation of a substantial improvement in efficiency from schools. That will reduce the cost to local authorities of implementing the Minimum Funding Guarantee, so that more of the increase in resources across the next three years can be used to support our key priorities. This balances continued stability of funding for schools with greater flexibility to target new resources at our key priorities.

12. We will also take further action on school balances, to follow up the clawback mechanism for excessive balances that we introduced this year. Our aim is to ensure that the £1.6 billion currently in school balances is substantially reduced, and is used to support the education of today's children rather than sitting in schools' bank accounts. Local authorities will be required to redistribute to schools a small percentage (5 per cent.) of all surplus school balances through the local authority funding formula. This broadly equates to the interest that accrues on balances. We will consult on the detailed implementation of this measure in the autumn, but local authorities and schools forums will take final decisions on how this funding will be reinvested locally.

13. We will broaden the membership of the schools forum: they have a key part to play in the implementation of our reforms of early years funding and the roll out of diplomas for 14-16 year olds. Local authorities will be expected to have non-schools members, including representation from the early years sector and from 14-19 partnerships. The limit on the proportion of non-schools members will be raised from one fifth to one third: that will allow us to broaden the membership to reflect the full range of interests in the decisions it takes, without the need to recruit significant numbers of extra schools members; and it retains the schools character of the forum.

14. The private, voluntary and independent early years sector is diverse, so its membership of the Schools Forum is only one part of ensuring greater involvement and consultation with the sector on funding decisions. As well as setting out in guidance that representation on the Schools Forum should reflect the amount of early years provision delivered through the PVI sector, we will expect all local authorities to consult a group of early years providers on local implementation—and it will be an option for this group to be a sub group of the schools forum

15. We also need to consider how schools forums will relate to the developing arrangements for Children's Trusts, and the wider Every Child Matters agenda. We have therefore announced today a review of the scope and functions of the Schools Forum, to start at the same time as the review of the distribution formula for Dedicated Schools Grant.

16. We will adopt a staged approach to reforming the funding system for early years provision.

We will publish estimates of local authority spending on early years provision with our annual benchmarking data on all local authority schools spending in August. Building on this, we expect that all local authorities will carry out an assessment of the cost of delivering the free entitlement in PVI settings, and present this to their schools forum, before they consider in early 2008 the distribution of funding to schools and early years providers for the next three years.

From 2009-10 we will require all local authorities to count pupils in maintained and PVI settings on the same basis for funding purposes. The presumption will be that the amount of funding received will depend on the amount of provision taken up, but local authorities will be allowed to vary this and continue to fund on the number of places, where the small size of a setting needs this approach.

From 2010-11, all authorities will be required to introduce a new funding formula to cover early years provision in both maintained and PVI settings, and this will incorporate a standardised transparent method for setting the basic unit of funding per pupil. While 2010-11 is the final date for introduction of a new formula in all local authorities, we will encourage and support as many local authorities as possible, through pathfinder projects, advice and guidance to implement such a formula in 2009-10.

17. Funding for 14-16 year olds taking diplomas will be distributed through a specific formula grant. The formula will reflect the costs faced by local authorities from: the diploma lines being offered, the number of children taking up diplomas, the higher cost of provision in high wage areas, and the additional costs in sparsely populated authorities. How this funding is delivered to the front line will be left mainly to local

discretion: there are already a number of local funding models in operation, and we want to allow those to continue where they are working successfully. But our guidance will set out the benefits of a partnership level approach: retaining much of the funding allows for economies of scale in commissioning and paying for provision, and it also gives schools more budget certainty if they can draw on funding from a central pool, rather than having to meet all the costs of diplomas from their delegated budgets. Finally, we will set out a framework for the costs that schools should be charged for diplomas, based on the LSC funding methodology, but with local flexibility to reflect the differing levels of funding for 14 to 16 pupils across local authorities.

18. This statement sets out the key decisions on school funding for the next three year period. They put in place a firm foundation for the school funding system to meet the challenges of the CSR period: there is further devolution to the local level; there is a programme of change for early years funding, coupled with local flexibility; and there is reform of the MFG, coupled with a focus on efficiency to free up resources for our priorities.

19. The Department will be issuing further detailed guidance, including details of all the decisions on the consultation, to local authorities and other key stakeholders, in the near future. A copy will be placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of the House.

Radioactive Waste (Disposal)

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): I am pleased to announce that the UK Government, along with the Welsh and Northern Irish devolved Administrations have today published a framework for the long term management of higher activity radioactive waste. These are set out in a consultation document entitled "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal". Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The UK Government and devolved Administrations' response to the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) on 25 October 2006 committed to consult on how implementation of the geological disposal programme can be taken forward. We are seeking views not only on the technical aspects of developing a disposal facility, but how we can engage most effectively with those communities that might have a potential interest in hosting the facility.

The consultation is not about potential new nuclear build. That is the subject of a separate consultation announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 23 May 2007. Irrespective of whether or not there is any new build, the UK has a radioactive waste problem that must be solved.

The proposed disposal facility will not only help to solve a major national environmental problem for future generations but will be a high-technology, multi-billion pound project that will bring investment and high quality jobs for generations. It will also provide significant economic and social spin-off benefits for both the host community and the surrounding area. It is a means of dealing with the radioactive waste problem that many other countries are also following.

Planning and development of geological disposal will be based on four pillars:

Partnerships with potential host communities for disposal facilities that allow issues and opportunities to be fully discussed and evaluated.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, NDA, acting as a strong, effective implementing organisation with clear responsibilities and accountabilities;

Strong independent regulation by the statutory regulators: the Health and Safety Executive, the environment agencies and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security;

Independent scrutiny and advice to Government by a reconstituted CoRWM carrying forward the original committee's commitment to openness and transparency.

We recognise that, despite the work CoRWM has done, there will be those who may still harbour doubts about the geological disposal of radioactive waste. We shall address such concerns in an open and transparent way, on the basis of sound scientific and technical evidence, as the process moves forward. CoRWM has set the standards for openness and transparency, and we are committed to maintaining them.

I must stress that there is no site selection or voluntarism process underway at this point nor will there be until the outcome of the consultation is available and Government have established and published their view of the way forward in light of it. That said, we are happy to discuss the issues set out in the consultation document with any community with an interest.

The date for response to the consultation document is 2 November 2007. Although the Scottish Government have decided not to sponsor this consultation, organisations or individuals in Scotland who wish to respond may do so and UK Government will discuss these responses with the Scottish Government through the appropriate devolution mechanisms.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) and Sir John Grant, UK Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Pursuing the Treaty Reform Process

The Council discussed reform of the EU treaties in preparation for the June European Council. It considered a report by the Presidency and looked at possible ways forward.

Preparation of the European Council on 21/22 June

The Council discussed the draft Conclusions for the European Council, covering justice and home affairs, economic and social and external relations issues.

Global Approach to Migration

The Council adopted Conclusions on the EU's Global Approach to Migration. These underline the importance of working closely with African, EuroMed and other partners, including the EU's eastern neighbours, on migration and migration-related issues.

External Relations

WTO/PDA

The Council was briefed by the Commission on progress in trade negotiations under the World Trade Organisation's Doha Development Agenda. The Council will meet in extraordinary session on 25 June in Geneva to discuss the outcome of a meeting of the EU, US, India and Brazil, to be held in Potsdam from 19-23 June.

Cuba

The Council adopted Conclusions calling on the Government of Cuba to undertake the political and economic reforms needed to improve the daily life of the Cuban people. It emphasised the importance of democratic reform and of respect for human rights, while setting out the EU's willingness to engage in dialogue with the Cuban Government.

The EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership

The Council approved a draft strategy for the EU's relationship with Central Asia, which will now be submitted to the European Council. The strategy sets out the EU's interests in the region and possible avenues through which to pursue an enhanced relationship.

Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy

The Council discussed the European neighbourhood policy on the basis of a report by the Presidency and welcomed the progress made in strengthening the policy.

EU Anti-Death Penalty Initiative

The Council decided that the EU would, as part of a cross-regional alliance, introduce a resolution against the death penalty during the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

Sudan

The Council adopted Conclusions expressing alarm at the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur. It urged the parties to the conflict to abide by the existing cease-fire agreements, respect the neutral role of the AU mission and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Sudan. It stressed the need for a political solution and reaffirmed its full support for the AU/UN initiative to revitalise the political track. It welcomed the Government of Sudan's acceptance of an AU/UN hybrid operation, but underlined the Council's expectation that the Government of Sudan should swiftly take action to facilitate the deployment of the operation. Ministers also underlined the importance of continued funding for the AU mission.

Relations with the Western Balkans

The Council adopted Conclusions welcoming renewed co-operation by the new Government in Belgrade with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the reopening of talks on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia. On Kosovo, the Council reaffirmed its support for UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and reiterated that his comprehensive proposal provides the basis for the settlement of Kosovo's status. It called for intensified efforts to reach agreement on a UN Security Council resolution on the issue.

Iran

The Council adopted Conclusions deploring the failure of Iran to comply with its obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1747 and reasserting its full support to the Security Council including in its resolve, expressed in Resolution 1747, to adopt further appropriate measures.

Libya

The Council discussed the latest developments in the case of the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor sentenced to death in Libya in connection with the infection of children with HIV/AIDS in Benghazi. The Presidency and Commission briefed the Council on their joint visit to Libya. The Council will continue to watch the situation closely and hopes that the case can be resolved in a way that leads to the release of the medical workers.

MEPP

The Council discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and called for a rapid resolution to the crisis. It expressed its full support for President Abbas and decided to resume normal relations with the Palestinian Authority immediately, including through direct financial support, through support to the Palestinian police, capacity building for Palestinian institutions and the resumption of the EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah. It also pledged to do its utmost to provide emergency and humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza and reiterated its call on Israel to release tax and customs revenues.

The Council met with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni in separate session. The Council and Foreign Minister Livni agreed on the need to support President Abbas and moderate Palestinians, including through the release of tax and customs revenues to the Palestinian Authority, progress on the political track and co-operation with the Palestinian side on alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Strengthening EU-Arab League Relations

The Council discussed strengthening ties with the Arab League and tasked the relevant Council bodies to take forward consideration of the issue.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Family Asylum Policy

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): I would like to update the House on the provision introduced in section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004. This provision is intended as a means of influencing the attitudes and behaviours of unsuccessful asylum seeking families who are not taking steps to facilitate their departure from the United Kingdom to their country of origin. It does this by providing for the termination of support in cases where the assessment is that the family is not co-operating or placing themselves in a position where they can leave. The provision was piloted between December 2004 and December 2005 in three areas.

We introduced the provision because it is not right that families who have had their asylum claims carefully considered—including by the independent appellate authorities—should expect to remain in the United Kingdom indefinitely, even after it has been decided that they are not in need of international protection. It is preferable for all concerned if families agree to make a voluntary return home. This is a more dignified approach—and allows access to the reintegration assistance provided through the International Organisation for Migration. However the Border and Immigration Agency must be able to enforce return where a family refuses to make a voluntary return—including in cases where the co-operation of the family is required to obtain necessary passports or other travel documents.

In the form piloted section 9 did not significantly influence behaviour in favour of cooperating with removal—although there was some increase in the number of applications made for travel documents. This suggests that the section 9 provision should not be seen as a universal tool to encourage departure in every case. We therefore do not propose that the section 9 provision should be used on an indiscriminate basis by Border and Immigration Agency case owners in the future.

Since the pilot of the section 9 provision was undertaken the approach to dealing with asylum applications by the Agency has, however, undergone a significant transformation. Making fast track asylum decisions—and removing those whose claims fail—was one of the four objectives set out in the review we published last July. The new approach being taken by the Agency offers a more credible and sustainable end-to-end system. Specialist case owners are now responsible for managing the claimants and their cases through the whole system to either removal or integration as a refugee. Faster and higher quality processes are leading to a better deal for the well founded claimant. This is supported by a strong focus on ensuring that early steps are taken so that those whose claims are not successful leave the United Kingdom in a timely manner.

I have therefore decided that the section 9 provision should be available to case owners dealing with cases under our new end-to-end asylum process. While it will not be suitable on a blanket-basis, it is important that we retain an ability to withdraw support from families who are wilfully not co-operating in the process. Going forward it should be for case owners to take a view, based on an established relationship with the family and an intimate knowledge of the asylum claim which has not been successful, of which approach to encouraging departure is most likely to be effective. Case-specific close working with appropriate officials from the local authority will normally be required if the use of the section 9 provision is being considered.

A short report detailing the outcome of the pilot for the 116 families involved in the pilot and the 116 families used as a control group has been made available on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, (Baroness Ashton of Upholland), has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Today I have deposited copies of The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: January to March 2007 in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. This is the ninth quarterly bulletin produced by the Ministry of Justice and former DCA, monitoring the performance of central Government and associated bodies under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Copies are also available on the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm."

Legal Aid reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has today made the following written ministerial statement.

"On Friday 22 June I laid before Parliament "Implementing legal aid reform: Government response to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee Report" (Cm 7158). It is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policyreports.htm."

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Power of Information Review

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): In February 2007 I commissioned Tom Steinberg, Director of mySociety and Ed Mayo, Chief Executive of the National Consumer Council to: "explore new developments in the use and communication of citizen and State generated public information in the UK, and to present an analysis and recommendations to the Cabinet Office Minister as part of the Policy Review"[1].

Their report 'The Power of Information' was published on 7 June. Copies are available on the Cabinet Office website and have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

The Government take three overarching lessons from this review. Government should:

Engage in partnership with user-led online communities;

Ensure that it fully understands and responds appropriately to changes in the information market; and

Advise civil servants on how best to participate in new media.

Citizens themselves are already helping each other in online communities, and working towards the same goals as government on a range of policies, from parenting to health and financial management. The Government in particular agree with the reviewers' comparison between online mutual support and the nineteenth century co-operative and self help movements. The Government are concerned that this comparison should not be misused as a simplistic justification for a return to a laissez-faire approach.

The Government response welcomes the findings of the Review in general and sets out how its recommendations will be taken forward. Accordingly, the Government will make a progress report in December 2007. This response is not the Government's final word, but the beginning of a phase of policy activity to work through the review's recommendations and their consequences.

Copies of the Government's Response to the Power of Information Review have been placed in the Library for the references of Members and are also available in the Vote Office.

[1] Terms of Reference from "The Power of Information" by Ed Mayo and Tom Steinberg

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Electoral Officer

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland, Douglas Bain, is responsible for all aspects of electoral administration in Northern Ireland, including the conduct of all elections and referendums, as well as electoral registration. In accordance with section 14 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962—as amended by Section 9 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006—the Chief Electoral Officer is required to submit an annual report to the Secretary of State.

I am pleased to announce that the annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland for the year 2006-07 has been laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Library.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Technology Strategy Board

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): In my statement of 1 November 2006 I said that I expected the Technology Strategy Board to be formally inaugurated in the first half of the 2007-08 financial year.

Following the sealing on 27 March of the Royal Charter establishing and incorporating the new body, I am today announcing that the new body will become operational as an executive non-departmental public body from 1 July.

I am also announcing the appointment of 11 board members for the governing body of the new Technology Strategy Board.

The newly-appointed board members are Graeme Armstrong, Nick Buckland, John Brown, Joseph Feczko, Anne Glover, David Grant, Jonathan Kestenbaum, Julia King, Andrew Milligan, Jeremy Watson and Peter Ringrose. Five of the 11 were Board members of the advisory Technology Strategy Board who have been appointed to serve on the new body, and six are new appointments.

The Technology Strategy Board will take on legal responsibility for delivery of a number of technology and innovation support activities from DTI. It will promote and support research, development and the exploitation of science, technology and new ideas to benefit business, increase economic growth and improve the quality of life in the UK. It will be responsible for delivering Government support to encourage business investment in technology and innovation across all sectors of the UK economy. It will deliver this in a range of ways, including Collaborative R and D, Knowledge Transfer Networks, Innovation Platforms and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. It will also advise Government on areas where barriers exist to the exploitation of new technologies, and put forward recommendations as to how they can be removed.

TRANSPORT

East Midlands Rail Franchise

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department announced on Friday 22 June that Stagecoach Midland Rail Limited (a subsidiary of Stagecoach group plc) has been awarded the East Midlands franchise which will begin on 11 November 2007 and will increase capacity, improve performance and begin the introduction of smartcard technology by 2010.

The East Midlands franchise brings together the current Midland Mainline operating out of London St. Pancras and the eastern section of Central Trains. The Department will receive a premium of £133 million over the life of the seven-year, four-month franchise.

A new timetable will be introduced in December 2008. This will support extra capacity, including a new hourly service between Kettering and London and a 9 per cent. increase in peak capacity into and out of London St. Pancras. Punctuality and reliability of 90.4 per cent. has been forecast. Stations will see investment of more than £5 million across the franchise area, including the creation of 1250 more car parking spaces, and 400 more bicycle spaces. More than £20 million will be invested in trains.

The Government will continue to regulate fares for the franchise in line with national policy, currently RPI+1 per cent. As with all franchises, unregulated fares are the responsibility of individual operators. In the East Midlands the new operator has indicated possible average annual rises in unregulated fares of 3.4 per cent. above inflation. A single compensation policy for all passengers will be introduced during replacement rail franchises, commencing with the East Midlands and West Midlands.

With improving Passenger's Charter performance in punctuality and reliability the current discount system means that an increasing number of passengers receive no compensation for delays. Therefore discounts in renewal for season tickets valid between one month and one year in compensation for poor punctuality and reliability will be replaced by compensation based on delays to individual journeys, known as Delay/Repay. Under the new system, all passengers will be entitled to claim compensation for all delays, whatever their cause.

50 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 30 and 59 minutes;

100 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 60 and 119 minutes; and

100 per cent. of the price paid for a return journey delayed by more than 119 minutes.

The changes will also start to standardise disparate compensation arrangements for single, return and weekly season ticket holders on different train operators.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Jim Murphy): The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2007 have today been laid before Parliament. The Regulations implement, from 1 October 2007, the recommendations set out in The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC)'s report on Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (command paper Cm 6098, published July 2004).

The principal recommendation made in the report was that the existing prescription for Prescribed Disease A11 be extended to recognise both the vascular and sensorineural symptoms of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS). This means that people who have sensorineural symptoms of the severity described in the regulations arising from working with the prescribed tools will now be covered by the terms of the prescription, whether or not they have the prescribed vascular symptoms. There are also three other minor amendments which:

clarify the existing prescription for the vascular element of A11;

include a causal reference to the occupational exposures listed for PD A11; and

reflect a Court of Appeal judgement which has broadened the definition of forestry.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 26 June 2007

TREASURY

Travel Insurance Review

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): On implementing the EU's Insurance Mediation Directive, the Government gave the Financial Services Authority responsibility for regulating the selling of all general insurance, save for a few exemptions allowed by the Directive. Sales of travel insurance sold along with a holiday or related travel were exempt from regulation, but given concerns with this market, the Government committed to review their decision in early 2007.

In August 2006 the Treasury announced that it would conduct an investigation into the selling of travel insurance sold along with a holiday or related travel, thereby fulfilling the commitment made in 2003 to return to this area. A call for evidence was published in November 2006 to inform the review. This document set out the issues and put forward a number of options for the future regulation of the sector. The Treasury Committee also held a hearing into the scope of FSA regulation and has since produced a report calling for travel insurance sold along with a holiday to be regulated by the FSA (so long as it can be done in a proportionate way) and for the Government to work with the FSA and industry to produce policies that are better summarised in plain English. On the second of these recommendations HM Treasury is taking forward work with the Association of British Insurers.

The Government believe that there is a clear weight of evidence pointing to a gap in consumers' understanding of travel insurance as a product and the cover it provides. In particular:

- although the travel insurance market is highly competitive, polices tend to be more complicated than a simple household or motor policy;
- as a secondary purchase, consumers are less likely to be focused on the details of their insurance policy than through a direct sale;
- the majority of consumers only really seem to consider price, not the details of the policy, in deciding which policy to purchase.

Whilst all firms selling travel insurance could do more to explain to customers what the policy does and does not cover, there is clear evidence to suggest that FSA regulated firms do a better job in terms of product disclosure and navigating the consumer through the sales procedure. Furthermore, customers of FSA firms have access to statutory redress and compensation mechanisms if things go wrong. Also, from a principled viewpoint, there is no case for the distribution of travel insurance through this channel to sit outside the regulatory framework when direct sales through insurers or brokers are within it.

The Government take a risk-based approach to financial services regulation, by balancing the need for proper consumer protection with the need to minimise the regulatory burden on firms. After a careful consideration of the arguments and assessment of the balance in this case, the Government believe that it is in the public interest to extend FSA regulation to cover travel insurance sold alongside a holiday. Further details of this assessment are set out in the partial Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the proposal. There will now be a further period of consultation on the Government's preferred approach.

HM Treasury is responsible for the overarching regulatory framework under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and the scope of activities to be regulated by the FSA. Once a decision has been made on scope, the FSA is responsible for the details of the regulatory framework that firms must operate under.

The Government are confident that the FSA operates within a framework that offers it the opportunity and flexibility to regulate in a risk-based and proportionate way. In line with Better Regulation principles the Government will also look to undertake a post implementation review after a reasonable period of time, three to four years after regulation comes into effect.

HM Treasury is today publishing the document: "Travel Insurance Review - summary of responses and next steps", copies of which are available in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Treasury will publish the 2006-07 Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn White Paper on Thursday 19 July.

The White Paper is an annual report to Parliament on the provisional outturn for public expenditure. It focuses on spending within Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) and Annually Managed Expenditure (AME), including information on individual Supply Estimates, and administration costs and near-cash limits.

The outturn figures are described as provisional because they may be revised when Department's final accounts are published.

A copy of the White Paper will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible on the Treasury website.

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 5 June in Luxembourg. The UK was represented by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. The items discussed were as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact: Excessive Deficit Procedures

The Commission presented its proposal to abrogate the Excessive Deficit Procedures on Malta, Germany and Greece. Ministers agreed Conclusions supporting the abrogation of the EDPs.

Convergence Reports by the Commission and the European Central Bank

The Commission and the European Central Bank presented their Convergence Reports on Cyprus and Malta, which conclude that both countries have met the Maastricht criteria for joining the euro. Ministers welcomed the Commission and ECB's conclusions, and agreed a letter to be sent to Heads of State and Government at the European Council on 21-22 June. The final decision on whether both countries will join the euro as planned on 1 January 2008 will be taken at ECOFIN on 10 July.

Quality of Public Finances

Ministers were presented a report on the efficiency and effectiveness of public finances, focusing in particular on the need to improve the measurement of public sector output. The Council adopted Conclusions supporting the report.

Tax

(a) Combating Tax Fraud

Ministers agreed Council Conclusions on a range of measures to combat tax fraud, particularly in the field of VAT. The Conclusions covered work on conventional measures and more radical approaches, including a Commission study into the impact of a possible wide reverse charge. The UK supports efforts to combat VAT fraud, particularly work to improve current arrangements such as exchange of information and mutual assistance.

(b) VAT Package

Ministers agreed a package of VAT measures, subject to work on some technical issues which are to be resolved before the end of the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency. The UK welcomes this important work to modernise and simplify the existing VAT rules, particularly for cross border supplies of services.

(c) Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base

Ministers held an exchange of views on the Commission's technical work on a CCCTB. The UK does not believe that the competitiveness of the EU would be helped by a harmonised company tax base and remains sceptical about both the principles and the practicalities.

(d) Code of Conduct on Business Taxation

The Council took note of a report from the Code Group on its work under the German Presidency to combat harmful tax competition. The UK supports the work of the Group.

(e) Joint Transfer Pricing Forum

Ministers agreed Conclusions welcoming the work of the Joint Transfer Pricing Forum. The UK agrees that the report's recommendations represent best practice, and broadly follows these standards already.

DEFENCE

Agency Key Targets

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): Key targets for the financial year 2007-08 for the following Ministry of Defence agencies and trading funds have been placed in the Library of the House.

Defence Vetting Agency
Hydrographic Office
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency
People, Pay and Pensions Agency
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Reduction Commitment Consultation Publication

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): I am pleased to announce that today the Government have launched a 15-week consultation on the detailed implementation proposals of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). Copies of the consultation document, updated partial RIA and the Government response to the previous consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The CRC is a new mandatory cap-and-trade scheme which will place an emissions cap on up to 5,000 large business and public sector organisations responsible for around 14 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) emissions each year.

The UK is committed to meeting ambitious carbon reduction targets and requires a robust package of policies to deliver emissions savings. This new scheme, announced in the Energy White Paper, together with the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will deliver emissions reductions of 1.2 MtC per year by 2020, from organisations such as large retailers and supermarkets, hotel chains, universities, hospitals and central Government Departments.

The CRC is a scheme that we believe is, so far, unique for this type of organisation, designed to drive emissions reductions by providing organisations with financial incentives through emissions trading and combining this with reputational incentives through publishing performance in the form of a league table. CRC will auction 100 per cent. of allowances to participants and will recycle the revenue raised from the auction back to participants on the basis of their performance.

This new consultation, ending on 9 October, seeks stakeholders' views on the detailed implementation and operational proposals of the CRC, with the aim of deciding how CRC can best be implemented. Government intend to bring CRC into force in 2010 beginning with a three-year introductory phase, with a fixed price sale of allowances, in which Government will not set a cap.

Voluntary Modulation Money (Livestock Sector)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): In my written parliamentary statement of 29 March 2007 on voluntary modulation (VM) and the new rural development programme for England, I said that I would make a further announcement about the use of VM receipts under axis 1 to assist the livestock industry in tackling some of the particular challenges it faces.

Purpose of Axis 1 Livestock-Related Measures

Voluntary modulation receipts amounting to £98 million at current exchange rates over the lifetime of the new programme will be used to support three main objectives:

to bring about improvements in the competitiveness of each individual livestock sector to help them compete in the marketplace;

to assist farmers in meeting their changing responsibilities and facilitate improved animal health and welfare;

to provide support for farmers in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of on-farm management of nutrients.

All the main livestock sectors (dairy, beef, sheep, pigs, poultrymeat and eggs) will be eligible for this extra funding.

Formula for the Division of Axis 1 VM Funding

The livestock package of funding will be delivered by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) alongside the core funding for axis 1. The RDAs will work with a number of delivery partners in their management of the axis 1 VM funding, including the Levy Boards.

The VM resources will be divided between the eight RDAs responsible according to a new specific formula based on numbers of livestock (using standard livestock units or LSUs), but with a weighting towards the density of dairy cattle because of the particular burdens that nutrient management issues will cause for the dairy industry. This results in a distribution between the regions as follows:

	Weighted Distribution	*Approximate Allocation (£m)*
North East	6.3%	1.02
North West and Merseyside	17.1%	2.79
Yorkshire and the Humber	12.0%	1.95
East Midlands	11.4%	1.86
West Midlands	15.2%	2.48
Eastern	7.0%	1.14
South East and London	8.0%	1.30
South West (excluding Cornwall)[1]	23.1%	3.77
England (without Cornwall)	100.00%	16.30

[1] Separate funding arrangements will apply in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly through the convergence element of the Rural Development Programme for England

Next Steps

The RDAs have initiated detailed discussions with the principal livestock industry stakeholders in their regions with a view to putting together a detailed programme of options to meet the three objectives described above, and taking account of particular regional priorities.

Pesticides Safety Directorate (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the Pesticides Safety Directorate will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Rural Payments Agency (Business Plan/Performance Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner): My noble Friend the Minister of State for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health has set the following targets for the Rural Payments Agency for 2007-08

1. To have paid 75 per cent. by value of valid 2007 SPS scheme claims by 31 March 2008 and 90 per cent. by value of valid 2007 SPS scheme claims by 31 May 2008[1].

2. To process and pay SPS claims within 2 per cent. materiality threshold and put in place other arrangements (with associated measures) to improve data quality.

3. Process and pay at least 85 per cent. of valid claims, by volume, for all non-SPS schemes within ministerial guidelines and 99 per cent. within EU Commission deadlines or in their absence, 60 days of receipt of the claim.

4. Record 98 per cent. of notifications of births, deaths and movements of cattle on the Cattle Tracing System within 14 days of their receipt.

5. Demonstrate a continually improving trend in customer satisfaction compared with the results of the February 2007 survey as measured for the year through our quarterly customer surveys and a reduction in customer complaints.

6. Provide training and development to enhance leadership skills to all RPA's senior staff in order to maximise efficiency and deliver results.

7. Demonstrate a material improvement in effective joint working with DEFRA and the DEFRA network across all relevant interfaces compared with the February 2007 survey, as measured by feedback from key partners.

8. Successful delivery of improvements covered by DEFRA investment while maintaining performance across RPA's core business activities.

Copies of the strategy and business plan will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1] This target is based on the assumption that no partial payments will be made. DEFRA Ministers will consider the issue in autumn 2007 and the target may be adjusted if necessary. The EU regulatory target (for the UK) of paying 96.154 per cent. of total fund value by 30 June 2008 is unchanged.

HEALTH

National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): I am today publishing "A National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care in England", which will come into effect on 1 October 2007.

The framework sets out the principles and process for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS funded nursing care. By introducing national criteria the framework aims to promote consistency and transparency in decision making and provide clarity for both patients and professionals about what the NHS will provide for those with the most complex long-term care needs.

It will address the problems surrounding the lack of consistency across the country in the application of the criteria for NHS continuing healthcare and respond to

calls by the Health Ombudsman and the Health Select Committee to bring the locally set criteria and variable decision making into one national system.

The framework will also simplify the interaction between NHS continuing healthcare and NHS funded nursing care.

The final framework was developed following a public consultation undertaken by the Department in 2006 that attracted responses from the health and social care sectors, voluntary organisations and users and carers. I am also publishing today a summary of the responses to this consultation.

The framework and the response to the consultation have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

"Governing the Future" Command Paper (Government Response)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I have today presented to Parliament a Command Paper providing the Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee's report "Governing the Future" published on 6 March 2007 in conclusion to its inquiry into the place of strategy and planning in Government.

The Government strongly welcome the PASC report and its support for strategic capability at the centre. The report provides a helpful contribution to promulgating a more strategic approach to policy-making and to ensuring departments are strategically well managed.

Copies of the Command Paper have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members and will be available in the Vote Office.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland has today issued a statement in relation to decisions as to prosecution arising out of the Stevens III investigation. Copies of the statement have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses".

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Companies Act 2006

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): The Companies Act 2006, which received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006, will bring major benefits to business by modernising and simplifying company law.

I set out the full commencement timetable for the 2006 Act in my written statement of 28 February. I published, at the same time, a consultative document on questions related to secondary legislation which will need to be made under the Act, and on transitional and savings provisions.

We received 65 responses to the consultation. These broadly supported the Government's approach, while making a number of helpful suggestions on points of detail. This statement outlines the Government's position on the main areas covered by the consultative document in the light of the responses. We intend to publish draft regulations and orders on the Departmental website at www.dti.gov.uk/bbf/co-act-2006/ before the summer recess in respect of most areas where regulations or orders will be required, to enable interested parties to comment on the details of the Government's approach to implementation in these areas. Draft regulations and orders on further areas will be published in the autumn.

The responses confirmed that there continues to be strong support for the Government's "Think Small First" approach to company law reform. In particular, most respondents agreed that the model articles for private companies limited by shares should be designed with the needs of small, owner-managed businesses in mind. There was unanimous support for the proposal to have a single set of accounting and reporting regulations for small companies, so that small companies will have to look in only one place to establish what they are required to include in their accounts and reports. We intend to include in the small company regulations the requirements for small companies that choose to prepare group accounts so that all the requirements are in a single set of regulations, but with the group requirements clearly and separately identified.

We consulted on a number of other accounting and reporting issues. Having now considered the responses, we intend:

to draft a single set of accounting and reporting regulations for all companies other than small companies;

to require medium sized, but not small companies, to disclose turnover in their abbreviated accounts;

to retain the disclosure requirements in schedule 7 of the Companies Act 1985 in respect of employment of disabled persons and in respect of employee involvement in company matters;

to require quoted companies to report more effectively on how pay across the company is taken into account in setting directors' remuneration.

The 2006 Act makes important changes to the law in relation to directors' residential addresses, so that for every director the address on the public record will be a service address (whether it is his residential address or not). We intend to make supporting regulations in this area which will:

restrict the extent to which credit reference agencies have access to directors' residential addresses;

extend the procedures for removal of residential addresses from the existing record to those of former directors and company secretaries.

The 2006 Act retained the requirements in the Companies Act 1985 Act for the annual return of companies with a share capital to include the addresses of all their shareholders. In the light of the responses, we have decided that this requirement should apply only to public companies that are traded on EU regulated markets in respect of shareholders who hold 5 per cent. or more of any class of shares at any time during the year in question. For other companies, the requirement will be changed so they no longer have to provide the addresses of any shareholders.

There was broad support for our proposals in the area of share capital, including that of share capital reduction by limited and unlimited companies. We published draft regulations in this area in May, and will publish revised draft regulations in July in the light of the responses to the consultation.

There was broad support for a single regulatory regime approach for overseas companies with a presence in the UK. We are currently considering the detail of such a regime and will make a further policy statement on this issue at a later stage.

The consultative document also sought views on two areas closely related to our implementation of the 2006 Act: limited liability partnerships and implementation of Directive 2006/68/EC amending the Second Company Law Directive on capital maintenance and share capital.

We are considering the responses in relation to limited liability partnerships carefully with a view to further consultation on specific proposals in autumn 2007 and consultation on draft regulations in early 2008.

We intend to amend the Companies Act 1985 (for the period April to September 2008) and the 2006 Act (from October 2008) in respect of the safeguards for creditors in the case of a reduction in subscribed capital in Directive 2006/68/EC. We also intend to consult further in respect of the option to extend the facility for companies to hold "treasury shares".

The consultation confirmed our general approach to transitional and saving provisions. In particular, we continue to believe that implementation should generally preserve existing decisions taken by the members and directors and agreements entered into by the company. In the light of the responses to the consultation, we intend to make a saving provision in respect of the repeal of sections 151 to 158 of the Companies Act 1985 (financial assistance by companies for acquisition of their own shares). We also intend to provide a grace period until October 2010 for any company which did not have at least one director who was a natural person at the time when the 2006 Act received Royal Assent.

We also consulted specifically on transitionals in respect of the provisions on derivative claims and proceedings in part 11 of the 2006 Act. In the light of the consultation responses, we have concluded that the new, clearer procedures should be used for all claims started on or after 1 October 2007; but the courts should ensure that the outcome of any claim based on acts or omissions by a director before 1 October 2007 will be what it would have been under the old, common law that applied at the time.

The Companies Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3, Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 was laid before Parliament in draft on 25 June. The draft Order will commence some key parts of the 2006 Act, including provisions relating to part of the statutory statement of directors' general duties, derivative claims and proceedings, the business review, and resolutions and meetings.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): I would like to make a statement on the future status of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

I can now set out the financial framework under which ECGD will undertake its functions from 1 April 2008.

On 1 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 22WS, the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Leicester, West (Ms Hewitt) told the House about the work she had put in place for ECGD to assess the suitability of its operations becoming a Government trading fund by operating a pilot of this status over a two-year period from April 2005. This period was subsequently extended to April 2008.

Since then, there have been some important changes in the environment in which ECGD operates. In particular, against a background of changing UK industrial and trading patterns, buoyant private sector financial markets and benign global risk conditions, there has been a reduced demand for ECGD support and a reduction in its customer base. This has cast doubt about ECGD's long-term suitability to operate within a trading fund structure. Moreover, the experience of operating as a pilot trading fund, combined with other reforms in ECGD's operations, has shown that the benefits from establishing an ECGD trading fund can be delivered in a more appropriate and effective way.

I am pleased to tell the House that the Chief Secretary and I have now agreed a new financial framework that is consistent with the objectives for ECGD set out in 2004.

A number of key principles will underpin the new framework. First, there will be a cap on the risk exposure that ECGD can commit without express consent from HM Treasury, but with sufficient headroom to meet current and potential demand from exporters. Secondly, robust systems will continue to be used to assess and control the assumption of new risks. Thirdly, the premiums which ECGD charges on the transactions that it supports will continue to reflect the risk, including making a contribution to the cost of notional capital and to the maintenance of sufficient reserves, and to cover administration costs. Fourthly, ECGD's administration costs will in future be subject to departmental expenditure limits and the disciplines of Government spending reviews. The new framework will include revised financial objectives to enable Ministers to monitor the ongoing performance of ECGD's operations.

Overall, this new financial framework will provide a structure for managing ECGD's business that is appropriate to today's needs and which continues to balance the requirements of exporters against those of protecting the taxpayer and of achieving value for money.

TRANSPORT

Humber Bridge Debt

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has today laid an Order before Parliament to enable the revision of interest rates on the debt owed by the Humber Bridge Board to the Secretary of State. The debt represents

borrowing from Government for the construction of the Humber Bridge. The interest rate on the loan will be reduced from 7.75 per cent., currently payable on a portion of the debt, to 4.25 per cent. payable on the entire debt.

The revised interest rate will apply from 1 April 2006 until 31 March 2011 at which time it will be reviewed. The rate of 4.25 per cent. was chosen as this was the National Loans Fund rate as at 3 April 2006. Over the five-year period, the reduction in interest payable amounts to £16.6 million, which the Humber Bridge Board can use to fund maintenance or repay capital debt. The reduction in interest payments will be reported in the Department for Transport's accounts each year over the five-year period.

The rate has been revised to reflect more closely current interest rates and to allow the Humber Bridge Board to repay the debt within the agreed loan period (until 2038) without recourse to levying a precept on the local taxpayers of Humberside.

The debt was last restructured in 1998 when an interest rate of 7.75 per cent. was set, although interest was not payable on a suspended part of the total debt. These arrangements were set out in the 1998 loan agreement and the Humber Bridge (Debts) Act 1998. In 2006 the Humber Bridge Board approached the Department for Transport advising that the debt would become unmanageable from 2007-08 at the 7.75 per cent. interest rate. This was because traffic growth had not met the levels predicted in 1998 and because of previously unforeseen major maintenance work required.

A revised loan agreement between the Secretary of State and the Humber Bridge Board was signed on 13 June 2007, replacing the 1998 loan agreement. It is dependent on the coming into force of the Humber Bridge (Debts) Order 2007. The Order is made under the Humber Bridge (Debts) Act 1996.

The total debt owed by the Humber Bridge Board to the Secretary of State was £334,437,000 as at 1 April 2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Joint Birth Registration

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I have today published a Green Paper on the Government's commitment to take forward new proposals in joint birth registration.

In December 2006 the Government published the White Paper "A new system of child maintenance". This paper set out the Government's proposal to make joint birth registration the default position for birth registration. It is the Government's ambition to significantly decrease the number of sole registrations from the current level of around 7 per cent. of births per year. This Green Paper sets out how we might achieve this ambition while providing robust exemptions for the protection of vulnerable mothers and children. We have always been clear that we would only legislate on this issue once we are sure such safeguards can be put in place and any legislation will have specific exceptions.

Joint birth registration is a positive, early intervention initiative that could form part of a wider cross government programme to promote good parenting, fatherhood and parental responsibility. The point at which a birth is registered is also an ideal time for possibly vulnerable or at risk parents to be identified.

Making joint birth registration the normal requirement, and doing more to promote and explain this requirement to parents, will publicly embed an expectation that the usual course of events is for both parents to acknowledge and be involved in the upbringing of their children.

This could also lead to positive changes in the level of fathers paying maintenance for their child's upbringing or provide a starting point for single parents to claim child maintenance where there is no longer a relationship between the parents.

The Government believe joint birth registration can make a significant contribution to child welfare and are committed to actively promoting it. This Green Paper sets out proposals to achieve this aim alongside a number of further non-legislative measures designed to maximise the number of joint registrations. The Government believe that these are critical to ensuring the success of our approach. The Green Paper asks whether these measures should be advanced as complementary to the legislative approach or developed solely within the current legislative framework.

Copies of the Green Paper are available for Members from the Vote Office.

Ministerial Group on Gas Safety

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): I chaired the first meeting of the gas safety and carbon monoxide (CO) awareness Ministerial Group on 14 June. The Group agreed to support a coordinated approach to raising awareness and reducing deaths and ill health caused by CO poisoning. It also intends to meet representatives of the gas industry and others in the autumn to review their progress in delivering a programme of renewed action on raising CO awareness.

The members of the Group are:

Lord McKenzie, Department for Work and Pensions (Chair)

Lord Adonis, Department for Education and Skills

Andrew Davies, Welsh Assembly Government

Nigel Dodds, Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland

Caroline Flint, Department of Health

Ian Pearson, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Angela Smith, Communities and Local Government

Lord Truscott, Department of Trade and Industry

Alistair Buchanan, OFGEM

A Minister for Scotland is about to be invited to join the Group following the recent elections in Scotland.

Pension Service (Targets/ Business Plan)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am today able to announce the annual performance targets in 2007-08 for the Pension Service executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions. The targets I have agreed are set out below.

Further information is contained in the Pension Service Business Plan for 2007-08 that has been published today. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The Pension Service targets 2007-08

Successful applications:

Generate a further 235,000 successful applications overall for Pension Credit, of which 166,000 should be for Guarantee Credit.

Pension traces:

Undertake 60,000 successful pension traces.

Service Delivery targets:

Answer 80 per cent. of all calls received in 45 seconds.

Achieve Pension Credit accuracy of at least 96 per cent.

Achieve State Pension accuracy of at least 98 per cent.

Issue 99 per cent. of Winter Fuel Payments for 2007-08 (automatic payments and successful claims received before 22/09/07) by Christmas 2007.

Reduce monetary value of fraud and error in Pension Credit to 4 per cent. of Pension Credit expenditure.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate Reports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection reports on Amber Valley Council, Basildon District Council, Colchester Borough Council, North Shropshire District Council and South Bedfordshire District Council were published today 26 June 2007. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The BFI reports detail a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit services provided by councils and make recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the reports and may ask the councils for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I lay today before Parliament the second annual report of the Financial Assistance Scheme.

This report covers the administration of the fund from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 27 June 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Funding

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell): On 15 March 2007, when I announced the new funding provision for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, I said that land values in the Olympic Park were expected to increase considerably as a result of the investment we are making and that the lottery good causes, having contributed a further £675 million to the Olympics, should share in any such windfall.

I also said that the Mayor and I had agreed that we would re-write our memorandum of understanding and put in place profit-sharing arrangements to enable the lottery and future regeneration needs of the local area to benefit from the returns on the investment that we are making in the Olympic Park.

The Mayor and I have now agreed a new memorandum of understanding that will enable the lottery, as well as the local area, to benefit from the returns in investment that we are making in the Olympic Park.

The memorandum provides that after the London Development Agency (LDA) has been reimbursed for its land acquisition costs and disturbance compensation payments (which are not expected to exceed £650 million) the proceeds of the Land and Property disposals, as and when made, shall be split between DCMS and LDA in a two-stage process.

First, threequarters of the additional National Lottery income we called upon (£506 million) will be re-paid, through DCMS, along with a quarter of the LDA's costs (£125 million) associated with the remediation and disposal of land and buildings in the Olympic Park. This will happen on a pro rata basis.

When this is done, the National Lottery—again through my Department—will be reimbursed the remaining quarter of its contribution (£169 million) and the LDA will receive the outstanding threequarters of its costs, (£375 million). Again, this will be on a pro rata basis. If there is a surplus once the repayments have been made, the Government will discuss with the Mayor how best to use this money.

These arrangements are set out in the revised memorandum of understanding. copies of which I have placed in the Vote Office.

This is a good deal for the National Lottery, for those who benefit from its projects, and for London. It fulfils the promise I made in my statement to this House on 15 March. It should give lottery distributors real confidence that the additional funding necessary for a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games will be re-paid—providing them and the whole country with a further 2012 dividend.

DEFENCE

Service Voters Survey

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the report of a survey on Service voting conducted by the Defence Analytical Services Agency in 2006.

The MOD has been working with the Electoral Commission to improve the electoral process for the armed forces. The survey was undertaken to provide evidence of the numbers of Service personnel who are currently registered to vote and to draw comparison with the results of a similar survey carried out in 2005. The surveys provide information which is helping us judge how best to encourage Service personnel to register in future.

I welcome the survey, which gives us the facts needed to target future work. It indicates that 63 per cent. of service personnel are currently registered, in comparison with 60 per cent previously, the majority of whom (65 per cent) choose to register as ordinary rather than Service voters. The number serving abroad who are registered has risen from 36 per cent. in 2005 to 42 per cent. in 2006.

These figures indicate that registration levels have improved but there is still much work to be done, particularly for those serving abroad; the results will help to indicate where our efforts should be concentrated. We will work closely with the Electoral Commission to understand the reasons behind the results and to use them to make further improvements to the quality of information available to all Service personnel.

We remain committed to improving arrangements for the Service community to exercise their right to vote. We will do this by encouraging our people to register and to vote, and underpin this by clear information provided in a timely manner. We shall continue to work hard, with the Electoral Commission, to achieve this.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs Council was held on the 12-13 June 2007 in Luxembourg. Baroness Scotland, Lord Falconer and I attended on behalf of the UK.

Baroness Scotland attended a Ministerial dinner on the evening of 11 June, where the German Presidency reported on the first meeting of Future Group on Home Affairs which had met in Eltville, Germany, on 21 May. Over dinner Ministers discussed the need for the EU to have an effective expulsion policy: the need to protect national security and the human rights of those who pose a threat.

The A-points list was approved and included adoption for Rapid Border Intervention Teams regulation, following a general approach in April, and the Ukraine readmission agreement, which was adopted by qualified majority with the UK voting against due to outstanding scrutiny reserves. The Integration fund was removed from the A-points list and will go to the Competitiveness Council on 25 June for adoption.

The Council opened with the Mixed Committee Items, which included the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), SISone4all, the Visa Information System (VIS), data protection and the Regulation on a uniform format for residence permits.

The Council welcomed the progress made on SISone4All and noted that the programme was on schedule. The target of lifting internal borders by December was likely to be reached provided that all the evaluation criteria were met. The Commission reported that the implementation of SIS II remained on target for December 2008 and reiterated that all efforts should be made to ensure that the SISone4All programme does not delay the implementation of SIS II.

There was political agreement on VIS and the Presidency hoped for swift implementation. The UK does not participate in the VIS Regulation and has been excluded from the accompanying Council Decision on law enforcement access to VIS, and therefore did not have a vote on this proposal. The UK did however secure a Council Declaration which underlines Council support for UK and Ireland access and makes clear that this issue will be explored further following the outcome of the FRONTEX and Passports cases before the European Court of Justice which deal with the right of the UK and Ireland to participate in measures which build on those elements of Schengen into which we have not opted in. Furthermore, the UK and Ireland also made a joint declaration setting out our view of the issue in more detail. The Commission hoped that the new system would be established by the first quarter of 2009. The Presidency underlined the significance of meeting the commitment made to the European Parliament of reaching political agreement on the Data Protection Framework Decision by the end of 2007.

The Presidency felt that good progress had been made on the Data Protection Framework Decision. The shape of a compromise on the difficult question of scope had been discussed at senior official level. Further discussions will be required. The Council conclusions were agreed.

The Presidency noted that good progress had been made on the Regulation on a uniform format for residence permits, but concerns remained over minors holding a separate permit. The Presidency was hopeful that agreement would be reached soon.

The main agenda items started with Europol, The Presidency was pleased with the progress of negotiations to date on the draft Europol Council Decision and all member states were content that negotiations on the first chapter had met most concerns. Discussions will now proceed on the next chapters of the text. The Presidency recalled the conclusions reached by the Council in December 2006 concerning the financing of Europol and that it remained necessary to clarify the financial consequences of any move to community financing. The new Council Conclusions setting out the remaining issues to be resolved were agreed.

Political agreement was reached on the Prum Council Decision. The Presidency anticipated that, by the end of the year, the implementing agreement and operational manual would be finalised to enable new provisions to be implemented swiftly. The Government believe that this proposal represents a practical step forward in cross-border police co-operation that should bring direct, positive results for citizens and help make the EU more secure.

The Commission gave a presentation on the Global Approach to Migration. The Government noted that further work was needed on the idea of mobility packages and highlighted the need for more consultation and exploration of the policy before commencing talks with third countries.

On the situation regarding the EU's southern maritime borders, the Presidency highlighted the priority for saving human life and the need for member states to take on a fair share of responsibility and to fulfil their commitments with regard to the Frontex toolbox. Practical steps to relieve any burden on southern States would be subject to further discussion.

Most member states welcomed the purpose of the Directive on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third country nationals, but questioned the approach taken by the Commission. There remained concerns in the Council about the administrative burden, added value, subsidiarity and proportionality. A number of member states also questioned the inclusion of criminal sanctions in first pillar measures. This proposal will be taken forward under the incoming Portuguese Presidency.

The Commission presented its asylum package including a Green Paper on the future of asylum, a proposed Directive extending long term residence to asylum and protection cases, and an evaluation of the Dublin system. The Government highlighted the success of the Dublin system, the necessity to develop the concept of regional protection and to include protection issues in the global approach on migration. The Commission underlined that visa waiver reciprocity continued to be a strong political priority with the matter being pressed with the US and Canada on a regular basis.

The Commission presented the results of the latest round of negotiations with the US on Passenger Name Records. A deal looks likely and the US has accepted the need to reach a binding agreement with a longer data retention period of up to 15 years. All member states support the negotiations.

On the second day of the Council, a general approach was reached on the draft Framework Decision on criminal records, which the Government welcome.

Lord Falconer informed the Council of the historic creation of the Ministry of Justice and the division of responsibilities with the Home Office and welcomed the opportunities for closer cooperation with EU colleagues.

The Council took stock of progress of negotiations on the draft Framework Decision on the recognition and supervision of suspended sentences, conditional release and alternative sanctions. There was support for the objectives of this proposal and for the general direction of negotiations. However, the Council was

unable to reach a decision on the application of dual criminality at this stage of negotiations. Discussions on the whole proposal will continue at working group level.

Over lunch the Presidency received broad support for a proposal for web-based exchange of information between member states on violent video games, using age limits and in co-operation with industry. The Presidency asked for greater exchange of information between the member states on banned games.

The Presidency sought agreement on the Framework Decision on Criminal Procedural Rights, reverting to a text that included within its scope cases wholly within domestic jurisdiction. It asked those member states that opposed such a wide scope to change their positions, noting that all had committed to some action in this field. The proposal tabled remained unacceptable to several member states, including the UK, and we regret that the compromise package discussed at the April JHA Council, comprising EU law covering defined cross border cases along with a Resolution on wide-ranging practical measures which might bring real benefits, was not pursued.

The Council took note of the discussions on the horizontal approach in relation to certain offences, which concluded that it is too early to take a final decision on whether a horizontal approach to definitions of offences is required, and on the progress of negotiations on the Directive for the protection of the environment through criminal law.

The Commission presented its Communication on cyber crime. Estonia circulated a paper on recent cyber attacks.

There was a state of play report on ROME II and the conciliation with the European Parliament was noted.

Council Conclusions were adopted on the Global Approach to migration, integration, violent video games, e-justice and the procedure for handling legislative files containing first pillar proposals relevant to the development of criminal law policy.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Sector Ombudsmen Services in England

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I have today authorised the Regulatory Reform (Collaboration etc Between Ombudsmen) Order 2007.

The reforms set out in the order have been developed in close consultation with the parliamentary ombudsman, the health service ombudsman for England, and the local government ombudsman for England, and have been subject to public consultation and detailed parliamentary scrutiny.

Principally the reforms will enable the ombudsmen to work together collaboratively on cases and issues that are relevant to more than one of their individual jurisdictions, including undertaking joint investigations where this is appropriate, and issuing joint reports.

The reforms will enable the ombudsmen to provide a more modern, responsive and co-ordinated service for complainants.

The order will come into force on 1 August 2007.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief constable of the Police Service (Annual Report 2006-07)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins): I have received the annual report for 2006-07 of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland which is being presented to Parliament today as a Command Paper.

Copies of the report are available from the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Appointment of Surveillance Commissioners

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): In accordance with section 91 of the Police Act 1997, I have agreed to re-appoint the right hon. Lord Coulsfield as a Surveillance Commissioner and, in accordance with section 63 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, I have also agreed to appoint his hon. Norman Jones QC as an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner. Both appointments will run from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2010.

Lord Coulsfield has served as a Surveillance Commissioner since 2004.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 28 June 2007

DEFENCE

Deepcut Review

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I wish to clarify my written statement to Parliament on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 91-95W, on the progress that has been made in the provision of care of our young recruits and trainees. I said that we have no plans to change our policy which allows all new recruits who have completed 28 days service, regardless of their age, to Discharge as of Right (DAOR). But I was referring only to the management, care and welfare of Service personnel under the age of 18. I should have said that we have no plans to change our policy which allows all new recruits under the age of 18 who have completed 28 days service to DAOR within the first six months of service. Additionally, those under the age of 18 years three months who have passed their statutory period for DAOR, but who are clearly unhappy in their service, may be considered for discharge from the Armed Forces provided that their unhappiness has been registered with their Commanding Officer before reaching the age of 18.

HEALTH

Meat Hygiene Service (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the Meat Hygiene Service was laid before Parliament today. The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have set the Central Office of Information the following targets for 2007-08:

Financial:

To break even, taking one year with another.

Efficiency:

To achieve a 2.5 per cent. reduction in the unit costs of output.

Quality:

Customer satisfaction index score of 8.25 (out of 10)

96 per cent. scores of six or more

A 10 per cent. increase on the 2006-07 audited response rate.

PRIME MINISTER

Machinery of Government - Departmental Organisation

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am today outlining Machinery of Government changes affecting a number of existing Departments of State. Full details will be provided shortly in a paper to be laid in the Library of the House.

These changes will sharpen the focus of central Government on the new and very different challenges that Britain will face in the years ahead. In particular the changes seek to strengthen the Government's support for children, young people and families through these challenges, and to ensure that Britain is equipped to seize the new opportunities of the global economy.

Support for Children and Families

Children and families are the bedrock of our society. The Government's aim is to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life, receiving the ongoing support and protection that they—and their families—need to allow them to fulfil their potential.

To drive forward progress towards this goal, I am today announcing the formation of a new Department for Children, Schools and Families, for the first time bringing together key aspects of policy affecting children and young people.

The new Department will play a strong role both in taking forward policy relating to children and young people, and coordinating and leading work across Government on youth and family policy.

High quality and tailored education for all young people will be at the heart of the new Department—which will take on pre-19 education policy responsibilities, from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), working closely with the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to ensure successful delivery of the 14 to 19 reforms. Funding for 16 to 19 education will in future go to schools and colleges via the local authority education budget. Raising school standards for all children and young people at all ages will be an overriding priority of the new Government.

The new Department will assume responsibility for promoting the well-being, safety, protection and care of all young people—including through policy responsibility for children's social services.

It will also be responsible for leading the Government's strategy on family policy—including parenting—and, working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Treasury, will take forward the Government's strategy for ending child poverty.

The Department will be responsible, together with the Department of Health (DH), for promoting the health of all children and young people, including measures to tackle key health problems such as obesity, as well as the promotion of youth sport with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The new Department will drive the Government's wider strategy on youth issues. This will include working with the Home Office and the Department of Health on tackling drug use and with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on youth homelessness and supported housing.

The Department will also be responsible for promoting the wider contribution of young people to their communities. It will assume responsibility from the Home Office for the 'Respect' agenda. In addition it will lead a new emphasis across Government on the prevention of youth offending, through joint responsibility with the Ministry of Justice for policy and funding of the Youth Justice Board.

Rising to the Challenges of Globalisation

The global economy is changing at an unprecedented rate presenting profound challenges to all national economies. The twin trends of globalisation and technological change are continually reshaping the environment in which businesses operate, generating ever more intense competition across increasingly global markets.

But alongside these challenges are significant new opportunities, with the greatest rewards for those nations with the highest levels of innovation and skills and the most dynamic and enterprising business sectors.

Ensuring that Britain seizes these new opportunities is key to the future prosperity of us all.

Business Council for Britain

I am today announcing the creation of a new Business Council for Britain to assist the Government in putting in place the right strategy to promote the long-term health of the UK economy.

The Council will comprise senior business leaders from a range of sectors, able to provide clear, independent advice on the reform priorities to enable business to compete in the global economy.

The Council will meet twice a year, chaired by a senior business person. It will report to the Government and to Parliament. Secretaries of State will attend meetings at the invitation of the Council.

The Council will:

examine the progress the Government are making to improve the business environment in areas critical to the future of the economy;

advise the Government on their ongoing policies and priorities;

conduct its own reviews on the areas it believes will determine the future economic well-being of the UK; and

where issues are particularly important, the Council will have the power to establish Special Commissions to make recommendations for reform.

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

To rise to the new global challenges, Britain must continue to develop its world-class competitive business environment as the key to being a dynamic, flexible and competitive economy.

To lead this work, I am today announcing the formation of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR).

The new Department will be responsible for creating the conditions for business success, developing deeper and more effective engagement with business, with the ability to promote the competitiveness agenda across critical areas of Government policy. It will provide support for the new Business Council.

It will also be responsible for promoting choice and quality for consumers through competition policy and for ensuring an improved quality of life for employees.

The Department will promote productivity and enterprise across Government and within the EU. A key priority will be its cross-Government role in promoting better regulation across the business, public and voluntary sectors. The Better Regulation Executive will move to the new Department to lead that work.

In addition, the Department will assume from the Department of Trade and Industry policy responsibility for productivity, business relations, energy, competition and consumer policy, corporate law, employment regulation, and, working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, making sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions. The Department will have joint responsibility with the Department for International Development on trade policy, and with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on trade promotion.

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)

In the years ahead, countries will increasingly derive their competitive edge from the speed with which they are able to innovate, building on a world-class research base, creating new products and markets and driving enterprise and efficiency. Seizing these new opportunities will also require a world-class skills base - both through the expansion of high-end graduate skills, but also by raising the skills of the wider adult workforce, including those currently unskilled.

To ensure that Britain is equipped to meet these challenges I am today announcing the formation of a new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

The new Department will be responsible for driving forward delivery of the Government's long-term vision to make Britain one of the best places in the world for science, research and innovation, and to deliver the ambition of a world-class skills base.

It will therefore assume responsibility from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for science and innovation—including ensuring world-class research and increased business innovation. The Department will oversee the science budget, which will remain ring-fenced, and the dual support system for funding will be retained. A new Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser will be created within the Department.

The new Department will also assume responsibility for ensuring that the UK has the skilled workforce it needs to compete in a global economy.

The Department will, therefore, be responsible for the development, funding and performance management of higher education (both teaching and research) and further education, working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Department will also be responsible for taking forward the Government's wider skills agenda—including the implementation of Lord Leitch's "Review of Skills", published last year.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Olympic Games

The Government are committed to successful delivery of the 2012 Olympic Games. To strengthen further the existing arrangements within Government, I am today announcing that the Government Olympic Executive will remain within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and will report to a dedicated Minister of State for the Olympics, who will be based in the Cabinet Office and will attend Cabinet.

Prime Minister's Delivery Unit

The role of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) is to promote a relentless focus on effective delivery of the Government's key priorities. The PMDU will now report jointly to the Prime Minister and to the Chancellor and will be based in the Treasury, working—as now—closely with No 10, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury officials, and Departments, on the critical priorities and actions needed to strengthen delivery across Government, and on the reform of key public services.

Better Regulation Commission

The Government believe that policy making would benefit considerably from a fuller and more rounded consideration of public risk. I have asked the Better Regulation Commission, building on its report "Risk, Responsibility and Regulation", to devise a structure and approach that ensures that this ambition is embedded in real policy action, even when facing pressures to react to events. I have asked it to report back by the end of July.

Parliamentary Issues

Legislation currently before Parliament will continue to be taken forward, and any changes in Ministers and Departmental roles in taking forward legislation will take place in accordance with well-established procedures.

The Government after consultation in Usual Channels will bring forward a proposal for the House to consider regarding consequential changes in the structure for Departmental Select Committees.

Consequential Changes

As a consequence of the changes outlined above, I am today announcing that the following Departments will cease to exist: the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO).

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 2 July 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Farm Payment

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My predecessors have kept the House informed of progress with the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). I intend to do likewise.

As at 30 June, the end of the regulatory payment window for the 2006 scheme, a total of £1.49 billion, representing some 98 per cent. of the estimated total fund had been paid in either full or partial payments to 107,088 (98.2 per cent.) claimants. About 2,900 claimants have received a partial payment and await the balancing sum. Work has also to be completed in respect of a further 2,000 claims, mainly small ones and those affected by legal issues such as probate. In these cases either no payment has been made to date or it has yet to be confirmed that any payment is due. Interest will be paid to claimants on sums paid after 30 June on the same basis as for the 2005 scheme.

Given the difficulties experienced with the implementation of the scheme in 2005, the plan that my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs set out in his statement of 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 715 for 2006 SPS payments was a challenging one for the Rural Payments Agency (RPA.) I am able to report that the agency has succeeded in both making the majority of payments earlier than last year, so boosting farmers' cash-flow, and meeting its formal target of making 96.14 per cent. of payments by 30 June. I am grateful to RPA staff who have worked long and hard to make this happen.

There need to be further improvements in the RPA's performance, however, before it can be said that it is again providing an acceptable level of service. The next step in achieving this will be to complete work on some 20,000 2005 cases where entitlement values have been identified for review and possible adjustment, upwards or downwards, to 2005 and 2006 payments. RPA resources are now being switched to this work.

Meanwhile, the RPA has already begun processing the 106,000 or so claims that have been submitted under the 2007 SPS. The agency's targets for 2007-08 that were set out in the statement of my hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North, (Barry Gardiner), 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS include one for 2007 SPS payments that represents a greater degree of challenge for the agency in the coming year while also reflecting the fact that it is still in a recovery period. Against this background, I would like to add my thanks to the farming industry for its continuing patience and support.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education (Loans, Grants and Fees)

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): The level of support for loans, grants and fees that will be available to eligible higher education students in the 2008-09 academic year will be 2.5 per cent. higher than for 2007-08, in line with forecast price increases.

For students who have entered higher education in or after 1 September 2006 and are being charged variable fees, the maximum fee payable will increase from £3,070 to £3,145 in 2008-09. The increase to the fee will be matched by a corresponding increase to the loan for fees that students can take out.

For students who are not being charged variable fees (primarily students who entered higher education before 1 September 2006), the maximum fee payable will increase from £1,225 to £1,255.

The increased fee amounts will be authorised by the Student Fees (Amounts)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007, which will come into force on 1 September 2008.

I am placing a memorandum in the Library giving details of the increased loan, grant and fee rates for 2008-09. The maximum amount of the Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) for non-medical helpers will increase in 2008-09 to £20,000 for full-time undergraduate students and to £15,000 for part-time undergraduate students; the maximum amount of the DSA for postgraduate students will increase to £10,000. All these rates are being incorporated into the Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations 2007, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission (Interim Review)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. and noble Friend, the then Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has received notice in writing from the Boundary Commission for England of commencement of an Interim review. The review will be of the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies of:

Berwick-upon-Tweed County Constituency;

Chippenham County Constituency;

Daventry County Constituency;

Hexham County Constituency;

Somerton and Frome County Constituency;

South Northamptonshire County Constituency;

South West Wiltshire County Constituency;

Wansbeck County Constituency; and

Wells County Constituency.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 July 2007

TREASURY

Appointments

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Prime Minister has today announced a series of constitutional reforms set out in the Green Paper "The Governance of Britain".

These include reforms to modernise the role of the Executive and increase its accountability to Parliament. Further to the Prime Minister's statement, I am announcing the reforms relating to the Treasury.

In 1997, the establishment of an independent Bank of England and Financial Services Authority (FSA) reflected the Government's commitment to transparency, credibility and accountability in economic policymaking. Last month, reforms were announced to increase the transparency of appointments to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

To further increase parliamentary accountability and scrutiny of appointments I am today announcing that, following their appointment, I will invite the Treasury Select Committee to convene pre-commencement hearings with all appointees to the MPC of the Bank of England and the chairman of the FSA.

These hearings will give the committee a full opportunity to discuss with the appointee their priorities and experience, and for external MPC appointments, coupled with the reforms announced last month, will allow the committee to evaluate their skills and qualities against the published criteria.

Furthermore, as part of the proposals for increasing the independence of Government statistics currently before Parliament, to further increase public confidence, I propose a vote in the House of Commons to confirm the Government's nominee for chair of the statistics board. I can also confirm today that, following the debate in Parliament, I propose pre-release access to national statistics will be reduced from up to five days for non-market sensitive and 40.5 hours for market sensitive statistics to 24 hours for all statistics.

In addition, in order to enable Parliament to better scrutinise public spending, I am proposing to simplify the planning, parliamentary approval and reporting of public spending by aligning estimates and accounts with budgets and the fiscal rules.

Double Taxation Agreements

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): A new double taxation agreement with the Faroes was signed on 20 June 2007 and a new protocol to the double taxation agreement with Switzerland was signed on 26 June 2007. The texts of the double taxation agreement and the protocol have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The texts will be scheduled to draft Orders in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

UK Inward Investment Results - 2006-07

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): With my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am delighted to inform the House that the UK continues to be a world class business destination.

UK Trade and Investment has announced today, in its launch of the UK Inward Investment Results 2006-07, that there were 1,431 direct investments in the UK by foreign owned companies between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 as reported by UK Trade and Investment and its partner agencies in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regional development agencies. This is an increase of 17 per cent. on the year before and this reconfirms the UK's position as the top investment location in Europe. Overall total jobs figures were down 12 per cent. to 78,357 of which new jobs were up 7 per cent. to 36,526.

This performance reflects the confidence which companies around the world continue to show in the business environment. The number of new projects has increased by 18 per cent. from 508 in 2005-06 to 600 in 2006-07 while confirming 334 expansions by existing investors which is down by just 1 per cent. from 337 expansions the previous year.

UK Trade and Investment's five year strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World" has refocused and restructured to concentrate on the areas where Government can make the most difference to maintain and grow the UK economy. For inward investment, UK Trade and Investment is targeting high value, innovative inward investment and entrepreneurial talent, especially research and development projects that match and enhance the UK strengths. The UK has therefore positioned itself as a springboard for global growth for companies seeking to grow internationally from a UK base.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment Report 2006-07 to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Depleted Uranium Exposure

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): In 2003 King's College London was commissioned by the Ministry of Defence , as part of its major health and wellbeing survey of Operation

TELIC personnel, to investigate the distribution and determinants of exposure to depleted uranium (DU) resulting from the use of DU munitions. Researchers visited bases in the UK and Germany and obtained urine samples from a total of 369 personnel who had taken part in the combat phase of the operation. Volunteers were sought in four categories, combat, non-combat, battlefield medical and vehicle clean-up personnel among which the last two groups were expected to have the greatest chance of exposure.

The findings of the study are today being published in the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine. No evidence was found for DU contamination in UK forces exposed to DU munitions. Analysis of the urine samples indicated only traces of natural uranium from normal dietary sources at levels consistent with those in non DU-exposed populations.

I welcome publication of these results, which should further reassure our veterans and others that the risk of incidental contamination by battlefield use of DU munitions is very small.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Probation Board Business Plan 2007-08

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today published the Probation Board for Northern Ireland business plan for 2007-08. The plan sets out the board's key objectives and performance targets for the coming year.

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 4 July 2007

JUSTICE

Court of Protection Rules

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have today laid before Parliament the Court of Protection Rules 2007, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Transfer of Proceedings) Order 2007 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Order 2007.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 establishes a new specialist court, the Court of Protection, with a jurisdiction to deal with decision making for people who lack mental capacity to make those decisions for themselves. The Act as amended provides for rules of court to be made by the Lord Chief Justice (or his judicial nominee), with the Lord Chancellor's agreement, to govern the manner in which proceedings are conducted in the new Court of Protection.

The new court has a jurisdiction to decide issues of capacity, to make decisions and to appoint people to make decisions on behalf of people who lack capacity to make those decisions themselves. The new court will have jurisdiction to make decisions both in relation to the property and financial affairs of people who lack capacity and in relation to their personal welfare. A public consultation on the rules was conducted between July and October 2006. Responses were received from a range of organisations and individuals including organisations representing people who lack capacity, their families and carers. In addition, a group comprising members of the judiciary and legal profession with experience of the operation of the current court and the High Court, under the auspices of the President of the Family Division, has provided advice on the development of the Rules. The new Court of Protection will operate from 1 October 2007.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Transfer of Proceedings) Order provides for transfers of proceedings between the Court of Protection and a court having jurisdiction under the Children Act 1989.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Order 2007 contains transitional and consequential provisions to the Act. The transitional provisions deal with the transfer of proceedings between the High Court and the new Court of Protection, the Senior Judge of the Court of Protection and pre-existing advance decisions to refuse life-sustaining treatment at the commencement of the Act on 1 October 2007.

Judicial Appointments Commission

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the Judicial Appointments Commission will be laid before Parliament today.

I welcome the publication of the first annual report of the Judicial Appointments Commission. The commission plays a vital role in the selection of judges and in making recommendations about judicial appointments to me as Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor.

I am glad that the report reflects the hard work and dedication of the commissioners and staff under the leadership of the Chairman, Baroness Prashar CBE. In particular, the report details the many challenges that the Commission faced and met during its first year of operation including the significant task of managing a challenging selection exercise programme.

I look forward to working with the commission and I know that they will relish the challenge of building on the significant achievements of their first year.

PRIME MINISTER

Council of Europe and Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): My right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) has been appointed as a full representative of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Central (Tony Lloyd).

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 July 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Competitiveness Council

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Malcolm Wicks): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council in Luxembourg on 25 June at which I represented the UK. Annette Schavan, German Federal Education and Research Minister, chaired the Council.

The Council held an exchange of views and reached agreement on a general approach on the European Institute of Technology (EIT). The Council agreed that the number of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) should be set at two or three to allow for flexibility and that the possibility of establishing KICs "inter alia" in renewable energy and climate change should be included in the preamble to the draft regulation establishing the EIT. On the budget, the Council agreed a sum of €308.7 million for a six-year period beginning on 1 January 2008. The UK expressed its concerns over this figure.

Council conclusions were adopted on a charter for the management of intellectual property rights and on the CREST report on co-ordination of the structural funds and the framework programme to support research and development.

Ministers then had a short exchange of views on the European Research Area (ERA) Green Paper following up on discussions at the Wuerzburg Ministerial informal and the May Competitiveness Council, focusing on strengthening research institutions, knowledge sharing and international co-operation. The Council agreed that more effective knowledge transfer between universities, business and public research institutions was at the heart of improving Europe's capacity for innovation and some argued that any Commission proposals following the Green Paper would need to be informed by effective evaluation of sixth framework programme for research.

Under AOB the Commission gave four presentations on the recently or soon to be adopted legislation to set up the Clean Sky and European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council (ENIAC) Joint Techonlogy Initiatives (JTIs) and the Ambient Assisted Living and EUROSTARS article 169 initiatives, stressing the need to get rapid agreement on the JTIs to maintain industry interest.

The presidency gave a presentation on the Euro-Med Education and Research Ministers Conference, and an update on the proposal for a directive on the marketing of certain measuring devices containing mercury.

Also under AOB the Portuguese delegation set out their plans for their upcoming presidency.

HEALTH

Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The annual report for 2006-07 has been laid before Parliament today and copies have been placed in the Library. The report covers research and development work carried out by or on behalf of any Government Department in relation to equipment that might increase the range of activities and independence or well being of disabled people.

The current report places such research in the context of the national service framework for long-term conditions and the White Paper on Adult Social Care and outlines the role of assistive technology in making independent living easier for older people and people with disabilities. The report describes the wide range of Government funded projects supporting the development, introduction and evaluation of assistive technology.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the Youth Justice Agency's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 in the Libraries of both Houses.

This is the Agency's fourth annual report since its inception on 1 April 2003. It achieved nine of its 10 key performance targets and 19 of its 23 development objectives.

SCOTLAND

Boundary Commission for Scotland

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Des Browne): I have received notice from the Boundary Commission for Scotland that it intends, in pursuance of the Scotland Act 1998, as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, to commence a general review of the constituency boundaries of the Scottish Parliament. The review will cover the boundaries of all constituencies—other than the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands—and the eight regions. The Commission is required to submit its report to me not later than 30 June 2010.

I am also pleased to announce that Mr Kenneth McDonald has recently been appointed as a Commissioner of the Boundary Commission for Scotland. His appointment will run until June 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 July 2007

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 10 July in Brussels. The items on the agenda are as follows:

Presidency Work Programme

The Portuguese Presidency will present its work programme for the next six months. They are likely to concentrate on an economic policy oriented towards growth and stability, in particular the Quality of Public Finances, the Lisbon Strategy, and the strict application of the Stability and Growth Pact and the enlargement of the Euro area. They also intend to focus on better regulation, completing the internal market, and approval of the 2008 EU Budget.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

Ministers will discuss the Stability Programme for Austria and the Convergence Programme for the Czech Republic. All other member states were discussed at ECOFIN in February and March, but the process for these two countries was delayed because of changes in Government. Excessive Deficit Procedures against the Czech Republic and Hungary will also be discussed. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which takes into account the level of debt, the influence of the cycle and the level of public investment, and ensures that any recommendations reflect each member state's economic position.

The euro

Ministers will adopt legal acts allowing Cyprus and Malta to join the euro on 1 January 2008. Heads of State and Government at the European Council considered a letter from ECOFIN and agreed with the Finance Ministers' recommendation that both countries should be allowed to adopt the euro.

Public Finances in EMU 2007

Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the Commission Report, which is an annual publication and was accompanied by a Commission Communication outlining proposals to improve the functioning of the SGP. The Report focuses on ways to keep up the momentum of fiscal adjustment so as to make rapid progress towards the achievement of sustainable fiscal positions.

Relations with Third Countries

There will be a debriefing by the Presidency and the Commission on the EU-US Summit 30th April 2007, and an exchange of views on economic, financial and regulatory aspects of dialogues with other third countries.

International Accounting Standards Board: governance and financing

Ministers will be asked to agree Council Conclusions, which acknowledge the steps taken by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and its associated bodies to improve governance and also make a number of suggestions to improve further both IASB governance and funding regime going forward.

Global Navigation Satellite System (GALILEO)

There will be an exchange of views on the financing of the Galileo project. UK will continue to push for full clarity on costs and a solution that avoids any re-opening or revision of the financial perspective.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Empty Property Relief

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (John Healey): I am today publishing a consultation on detailed aspects of reforms to the current system of relief from business rates for owners of empty properties.

The modernisation of empty property relief is a key element of a broad package of measures which promote the efficient use of land and property, announced in the 2007 Budget. The Rating (Empty Properties) Bill, which received its Third Reading in the House of Lords on 3 July and now awaits Royal Assent, will provide a stronger incentive for owners to bring empty shops, offices, factories and warehouses back into use—helping to revitalise town centres, reduce rents for businesses and bring forward new opportunities for commercial and housing development on brownfield sites.

The consultation paper published today seeks views on detailed aspects of the reforms to empty property relief, to be achieved through secondary legislation. In particular, it invites views on potential changes to a small number of the current exemptions from empty property rates; and on new measures to prevent the avoidance of empty property rates, which the Government propose to bring in under a power provided in Schedule 1 of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill.

The response to the consultation, which closes on 1 October 2007, will inform the secondary legislation required to give effect to the reforms which, as announced in the 2007 Budget, will be brought into force on 1 April 2008, subject to Parliamentary consent.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for England

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I should like to inform the House that I have, under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, reappointed the honourable Mr. Justice Sullivan as Deputy Chairman of the Boundary Commission for England, to hold office until 31 March 2010.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 July 2007

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget ECOFIN)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): I will attend the Budget ECOFIN to be held on 13 July in Brussels. Discussion will be on the Preliminary Draft Budget for the European Communities for 2008 and the meeting will include conciliation with the European Parliament, during which Council and the European Parliament will discuss expenditure levels. Items on the agenda are as follows:

Preparation for the conciliation meeting with the European Parliament;

Conciliation with the European Parliament;

Establishment by the Council of the draft EC Budget for 2008.

JUSTICE

Public Guardianship Office

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Public Guardianship Office's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 have been laid before Parliament today. This document gives full details of the agency's performance and expenditure for that year.

TRANSPORT

New Cross Country Rail Franchise

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department are today announcing that Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd has been awarded the New Cross Country franchise. The new franchise combines most of the existing Cross Country services currently operated by Virgin Cross Country and some services currently operated by Central Trains.

The contract will begin on 11 November 2007 and run for eight years and four months with the option for the Department for Transport (DFT) to terminate the contract after six years if performance targets are not met. The DFT will pay Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd a subsidy of £1.056 billion.

The contract which DFT has signed will add capacity by nearly 3,000 seats each day on key routes at the busiest times by June 2009. Most additional seating capacity will be provided by reintroducing high speed trains to the network. These trains will be refurbished to the standard of the Voyager trains used on current Cross Country services; further seating capacity and additional luggage space will be added by modifying the Voyager fleet. The Stansted - Birmingham and Nottingham - Cardiff routes will see refurbished trains by June 2009 featuring more seats, and new first class accommodation.

A new timetable will be introduced in December 2008 based on the route structure specified developed by a cross-industry group to maximise the benefits of the West Coast Mainline modernisation. Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd will offer a limited number of service extensions above and beyond the minimum specification maintaining some current direct journey opportunities which were not included in the franchise specification.

Extra help will be provided for passengers who need to change trains, especially at Birmingham New Street. Onboard staff will be equipped with technology to give up to the minute information on train times and connections. There will be an information campaign to advise passengers of other stations where they can change more easily than at Birmingham New Street. Extra staff will be employed to help passengers during major timetable changes in December 2008.

Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd is contracted to improve performance and will introduce state of the art web based ticketing which will allow customers to print tickets at home.

The Government will continue to regulate fares for the franchise in line with national policy, currently RPI+1 per cent. As with all franchises, unregulated fares are the responsibility of individual operators.

In the New Cross Country franchise, Arriva Trains Cross Country Ltd has indicated possible average rises in unregulated fares of 3.4 per cent. above inflation each year.

The New Cross Country franchise will offer a single compensation policy for all passengers. As with other recently announced franchises, discounts in renewal for season tickets valid between one month and one year in compensation for poor punctuality and reliability will be replaced by compensation based on delays to individual journeys, known as Delay/Repay. Under the new system, all passengers will be entitled to claim compensation for all delays, whatever their cause:

50 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 30 and 59 minutes;

100 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 60 and 119 minutes; and

100 per cent. of the price paid for a return journey delayed by more than 119 minutes.

The changes will also start to standardise disparate compensation arrangements for single, return and weekly season ticket holders on different train operators.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 11 July 2007

TREASURY

First Solution Money Transfer

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): In light of the recent financial difficulties experienced by the money transfer company, First Solution Money Transfer Ltd, the Companies Investigation Branch (CIB) of the Insolvency Service, within the Department for Business; Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, is carrying out an examination of the facts of the case. CIB has powers to investigate companies where there is suspicion of some form of misconduct, or where the facts need to be substantiated.

The BERR Minister, Stephen Timms, also met with representatives of the affected community last week to hear their concerns.

An insolvency practitioner has not yet been formally appointed to act as voluntary liquidator. However, the company has asked customers who have been affected by the financial difficulties experienced by First Solution Money Transfer Ltd to contact their nominated insolvency practitioners, Panos Eliades Franklin & Co on 020 8815 4000.

The Government have already committed, following agreement reached on the EU Payment Services Directive (PSD) in April 2007, to bring money transfer companies into regulation from November 2009. HM Treasury will launch a public consultation on the implementation of the PSD in autumn 2007. The Government encourage money transfer providers and users to participate actively in this consultation.

The Government recognise that international remittances through formal channels are an increasingly important source of development finance, and can have a significant positive economic impact in developing countries, particularly in low-income countries. The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises the challenges associated with sending remittances to developing countries, and is currently supporting a project to improve the transparency and lower the cost with which migrants are able to remit funds home to Bangladesh. DFID also funds the UK Remittances Task Force, which aims to promote greater transparency, competition and better information within the UK remittances market, and has developed a voluntary Customer Charter to improve remittance services in the UK.

In HM Treasury's document "Financial Inclusion: the way forward", published in March 2007, the Government stated that they would approach the UK Remittances Task Force, to ask if it will consider how remittance services fit with existing financial service products offered to migrant communities by various providers. In taking forward this work, the Government will ask the Task Force to consider whether there are any lessons from the First Solution case for access to remittances and wider financial services by migrants in the UK.

DEFENCE

Agency Key Targets

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): Key targets for the financial year 2007-08 for the following Ministry of Defence agencies and trading funds have been placed in the Library of the House.

ABRO
Defence Aviation Repair Agency
Service Children's Education

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Anne Lambert (UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU) represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 28 June.

The Council reached a unanimous political agreement on the draft directive on waste. The UK supports the agreement reached and the agreed text will now be negotiated with the European Parliament. In particular the Council agreement meets two of the UK's key concerns, namely that the single market for waste materials for recycling should not be impeded, and that the Commission should carry out proper impact assessments before introducing any new EU-wide minimum standards for waste treatment operations. Political agreement was also reached on a draft Directive establishing environmental quality standards (EQS) in the field of water policy. The UK supports this which provides a high level of protection for the environment with a risk-based and cost-effective approach in line with the Water Framework Directive. The Council also reached political agreement on a draft regulation banning exports and ensuring the safe storage of metallic mercury. At the request of Sweden, Ministers agreed that metallic mercury should only be eligible for underground storage after the development of specific environmental criteria through the EU's comitology process.

The Council agreed a set of Conclusions to inform the Commission's forthcoming legislative proposal on reducing CO_2 emissions from cars. Ministers endorsed the general thrust of plans set out by the Commission in February and gave their backing to a target to reduce average CO_2 emissions to 120 grams per kilometre by 2012 for new cars sold in the EU. Council Conclusions were adopted on the Review of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and the Commission will now aim to present legislative proposals by the end of 2007. With regard to preparations for the Convention on Biological Diversity (Bonn, 19-30 May 2008), Environment Ministers adopted the Council Conclusions. The Council also adopted Conclusions on new perspectives for EU environmental policy which deals with three specific issues: the 6th Environmental Action Plan, market-based instruments, and eco-innovation.

The Council adopted by qualified majority a mandate for the Commission to negotiate an international regime on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The UK voted against, because we have political, legal and practical concerns. A planned vote on whether to approve a genetically modified potato for cultivation in the EU was withdrawn from the agenda by the Presidency.

Under 'AOB', the German Presidency provided progress reports on: the inclusion of aviation activities in the EU ETS, the Fuel Quality Review, and the Soil Directive. The Presidency also provided information on the sustainable use of pesticides Directive, the Environment for Europe process, the proposed Regulation on marketing of Plant Protection Products and the outcome of the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The Commission provided information on emissions from heavy duty vehicles (Euro VI), ship dismantling, the Green Paper on adaptation and on the deliberate release of GMOs.

Information on the risk assessment of GMOs, the Commission for the protection of the Danube river, the Midnight Sun Dialogue on climate change, the Council of Baltic Sea States meeting, the Aarhus Convention and Natura 2000 was requested by Member States. Information on the Workshop on the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection and VII Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of the Environment was provided by Member States.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

State Opening of Parliament

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): Her Majesty the Queen will open the new Session of this Parliament on Tuesday 6 November. I plan to announce the date of prorogation as soon as I am able.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have today placed copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 July 2007

TREASURY

National Statistics (Annual Report)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The National Statistics Annual Report for 2006-07 is being published and laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and is also accessible on the National Statistics web site.

UK Asset Freezing Regime

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher): In a written ministerial statement of 10 October 2006, the previous Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's asset freezing regime. This is the third of these reports and covers the period April-June 2007.[1]

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter April-June 2007, the Treasury made three domestic designations under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

None of these were persons already designated under earlier Orders.

The Terrorism Order and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Order provide, where appropriate, for designations to be made confidentially and with restricted circulation of notice. No persons were designated on this basis in this quarter.

One person was designated on the basis of closed source material provided by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

There were no financial sanctions listings at the EU or the UN in relation to terrorism or Al-Qaida and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

No designated persons have been delisted in this quarter.

A total of 244 separate accounts and approximately £570,000[2] of suspected terrorist funds have been frozen in the UK since 2001.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset-freezing cases under review. A number of formal reviews have been initiated in this quarter and the review of 1 case has been completed. In this case a decision was taken following the review to maintain the asset freeze.

Licensing policy

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued:

Seven listed persons were granted basic expenses licences (two of which were for benefits payments)

No listed persons were granted extraordinary expenses licences; and

six listed persons were granted legal expenses licences.

In addition, the households of three listed persons were granted benefits licences in accordance with the policy set out in the previous Economic Secretary's statement of 3 July 2006 to Parliament.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using current exchange rates. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

Tax Credits

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): Tax credits today provide support to 20 million people including 6 million families and 10 million children. Take-up of tax credits is a significant success. In 2004-05 take-up of the Child Tax Credit rose from 79 per cent. to 82 per cent., with over 90 per cent. of the money available being claimed. Take-up among those on incomes below £10,000 is 97 per cent. and take-up among lone parents is 93 per cent. This is higher than for any previous system of income-related financial support for working families.

Tax credits play a major role in moving people into work and helping people move up the employment ladder, ensuring that work pays over welfare. Tax credits, economic stability, and the Government's welfare to work programmes have helped to increase the number of people in work by over 2.6 million since spring 1997.

As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system since 1997, from April 2007, in real terms:

families with children are, on average, £1,550 a year better off, while those in the poorest fifth will be, on average, £3,450 per year better off; and

a single-earner family on half average male earnings with two children is £3,900 a year better off.

The tax credit system has also played a key role in tackling child poverty. Since 1998-99, 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty, compared to a doubling of child poverty in the previous 20 years.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs are today publishing their estimates of error and fraud in the tax credits system in 2004-05. This analysis shows that the rate of error and fraud has declined by a sixth between 2003-04 and 2004-05. This is below the error and fraud rate under the predecessor system; and comparable with error and fraud rates for Income Support and Job Seekers Allowance when the Government first started collecting data in a systematic way in 1997-98.

Looking to the future, HMRC are seeking to accelerate the production of error and fraud figures, which will enable them to set clear targets for a further reduction. HMRC are also looking carefully at whether an estimate can be made of the split between customer error and official error for the 2005-06 and subsequent enquiries.

The largest component of the figures published today is error (£1.13 billion) as opposed to fraud (£40 million). These figures are from a period when the Inland Revenue was starting to recover from the early operational difficulties and new rules and processes were starting to become established.

Since the introduction of tax credits, HMRC has had a detailed programme of action in place to ensure that individuals receive the tax credits to which they are entitled, at the right time. To tackle error, HMRC have continued to improve their communications with members of the public—simplifying the claim form and award notices. Access to contact centres has also been improved, with 99 per cent. of callers in 2006-07 answered on the day they called. Advertising and increased contact has been used to make individuals aware of their entitlements and reduce error.

HMRC is also committed to tackling official error. Accuracy in processing and calculating awards rose from 78.6 per cent. in 2003-04 to 97.7 per cent in 2005-06.

To tackle fraud, HMRC has further refined its risk assessment processes and increased pre-payment checks on claims where fraud or non-compliance is suspected. In addition, compliance specialists are now in place in tax credit contact centres. By providing support and advice to contact centre staff, they have successfully prevented a significant number of attempts to defraud the tax credit system.

Information on organised fraud shows that HMRC is successfully stopping the majority of claims identified as being submitted by organised fraudsters. In 2006-07 HMRC identified attempts to defraud the tax credit system of around £252 million. Of this, the vast majority—some £212 million, was detected by HMRC before any money was paid out.

Tax credits and economic stability have helped to increase the number of people in work by more than 2.6 million since spring 1997, and since 1997 long-term unemployment has reduced by 460,000. Tax credits have improved work incentives, reduced the tax burden on low-to-middle-income families and helped dramatically to reduce child poverty.

United Kingdom Coins 2009

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve my recommendation that the following coins should be issued in 2009:

a crown piece to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII;

a two pound coin to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of publication of The Origin of the Species;

a two pound coin to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns; and

a 50 pence piece to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Collector versions of these coins will be released at a premium above face value and, during the course of 2009, the coins will also become available at face value from banks and post offices.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Energy Demand Reduction Project

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): Contracts have been signed with EOF Energy, E.ON UK, Scottish and Southern Energy, and Scottish Power to conduct the trials of smart meters and associated feedback devices. They are being funded by £10 million from Government matched by a similar amount from the companies involved. The funding was announced as part of Budget 2006.

The trials will include 15,000 households receiving state of the art smart meters and 8,000 more receiving clip on real time display units for their existing meters. The other households in the trial will be testing new ways of receiving information to help them cut their energy use. Altogether around 40,000 households will be involved.

Clip on real time display units can tell people how much energy they are using, and how much it is costing when individual appliances are turned on. Smart meters allow energy suppliers to communicate directly with their customers, removing the need for meter-readings and ensuring entirely accurate bills with no estimates. Smart meters tell people about their energy use either through linked display units or in other ways, such as through the internet or the television.

The trials will test out consumers' response to better information on their energy use through a variety of methods, including:

Consumers to be able to access information about their consumption and energy costs through visual display units that can be displayed round the house, over the internet and even through digital TV;

The potential for energy suppliers to provide enhanced billing information with advice to consumers on how they can cut down their energy bills; and,

Providing a breakdown of energy use to the customer and exploring a range of tariffs for consumption at different times of the day.

The trials will be conducted throughout the country and will look at the responses from a range of customers, including those in fuel poverty.

The trials will also look at:

Increasing the frequency of billing as well as the impact of more accurate bills; and

Encouragement to become even more energy efficient through more information and community engagement.

Smart meters are expected to be rolled out to most households within the next 10 years, and all but the smallest businesses in the next five years.

In the meantime, Government have proposed that real time display units be provided with any new meters fitted from 2008, and to all households that request them between 2008 and 2010. It is estimated that these short-term measures will deliver savings of 0.3 million tones of carbon per year by 2020. Government will be consulting further on the implementation of these proposals.

DEFENCE

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I have placed in the Library of the House today a table detailing for 2005 the cost to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) of participating in the first year of phase 1 of the EU European Trading Scheme (2005).

The table details MOD sites registered in the scheme, the number of free allowances, actual carbon dioxide emissions, scheme administration costs, and additional allowance costs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Home Energy Conservation Act

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Data reported by Energy Conservation Authorities in England under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 in the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2006 have been placed in the Libraries of the House. This data have also been published on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website. Authorities have reported an overall improvement in domestic energy efficiency of 19.26 per cent. as measured against a 1996 baseline.

Floods

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The month of June was the wettest June on record; in excess of 150mm of rain fell over most of the Midlands and northern England with between 200 and 300mm in parts of the North East. These extreme conditions led to large scale urban flooding, a lot of which was from surface water run-off rather than from rivers. The flooding affected places across the Midlands and Yorkshire and Humberside, and tragically four people lost their lives as a direct result of the flooding. The circumstances of three other reported deaths are still being investigated. Over 37,000 properties including some 7,000 businesses are reported to have been affected, with nearly 18,000 properties affected in the Hull area alone and over 5,000 in the Doncaster area. It is estimated that thousands of people are still out of their homes with around 300 in emergency accommodation in Sheffield and Doncaster, and Hull. The response of the emergency services, local authorities, operating authorities, voluntary sector and the affected communities has been very impressive.

However, as the affected communities, businesses and individuals move to the long and difficult task of recovery, they are understandably asking questions about the flooding—its causes and subsequent management. My ministerial colleagues and I have said that it is vital that we learn lessons now about how to manage and respond to this type of disaster in the future. As part of the usual process following an emergency we are establishing a review to identify these lessons, and the Prime Minister stated on 8 July that the conclusions of such an exercise would be made public. I am, therefore, announcing today how the Government intend to go about this and our aim to publish initial findings by the end of the year and subsequently a formal Government report. The review will be led by officials from the Cabinet Office with my officials' support. They will report to me, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The review will look at flood risk management, the emergency response and the initial moves towards recovery. The longer-term recovery effort will require sustained commitment over a considerable period of time, and a further review will be undertaken separately once these tasks are well in hand and we are better able to assess the lessons to be drawn from it.

The review will consider all available evidence on the flooding and its impacts and what this means for the future. Its specific objectives will be;

i. To understand why the flooding was so extensive;

ii. To learn lessons on how in future we can best predict, prevent or mitigate the scale and impact of flooding incidents;

iii. To look at how best to co-ordinate the response to flooding in future;

iv. To establish what access to support, equipment and information is needed by those involved in the response at local, regional and national levels;

v. To ensure the public has as much access as possible to information on the risk of flooding to allow them to take appropriate precautions, be adequately informed on developments as an emergency unfolds, and be looked after properly in the immediate aftermath;

vi. To establish how the transition from response to recovery is best managed;

vii. To identify those aspects of the response that worked well and should be promoted and reinforced;

viii. To make recommendations in each of these areas to improve the UK's preparedness for flooding events in the future.

The lessons learned exercise will be wide ranging and will hear from those involved at the local, regional and national level. It will ensure a structured approach to public engagement so that the voices of local communities are heard, including affected individuals and locally elected representatives (councillors and local MPs). At the same time I recognise that a considerable amount of work is taking place dealing with the recovery from last month's events—the review will therefore take place in a staged approach. It will identify areas for attention as quickly as possible with fuller responses over a slightly longer timescale. We aim to summarise initial findings of the review by the end of the year and explore more fully how we propose to address them in a subsequent published report.

Wet Weather and Farmers

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The unprecedented wet weather has caused significant disruption for a number of farmers. In recent days, including during my visit to the Great Yorkshire show, I have received representations

from industry representatives and individual farmers about two specific measures we might take to help alleviate their difficulties. Both have now been implemented.

Given the urgency of the issue, I gave instructions yesterday that the cross compliance requirement (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) 3) prohibiting the use of mechanical field operations and mechanised vehicles on waterlogged soil should be suspended until 31 July 2007. This will enable farmers to use mechanical equipment and vehicles on waterlogged soil and access their crops. Farmers should use their soil protection review as a means to identify and mitigate any soil-related issues arising as a result of the suspension.

Livestock farmers have also been experiencing problems in accessing sufficient forage for their animals. I have, therefore, authorised the rural payments agency (RPA) to allow farmers in England to graze set-aside land with their own animals or harvest hay or silage for their own use. Farmers wishing to make use of this derogation should telephone, e-mail or write to the RPA customer service centre providing the reference numbers for the fields which they wish to graze or harvest. Exceptionally, in these circumstances, farmers may consider that the derogation has been granted unless RPA subsequently makes contact to indicate otherwise.

Further details of these measures are accessible on the RPA website at:
http://www.rpa.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/0/839744302B8BBA1080257315005078F1

HEALTH

Medical Training Data

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): Following the end of the first round of recruitment for specialty training on 22 June, I should like to give to the House the data that shows the number of posts that have been filled in England.

The information is in the tables. These figures show that 85 per cent. of all junior doctor training posts in England have been filled by the end of round one. Of a total of 15,600 training posts available in England, 13,168 have been offered to and accepted by junior doctors.

A second round of recruitment has commenced and will run until 31 October. Deaneries have informed the Department that there are 2,320 posts available to applicants within Round Two.

As part of the package announced in the House on 24 May there will also be around 1,000 training posts made available at the end of this year's recruitment process to appointable junior doctors who did not secure a post in Rounds One or Two.

England Summary of Round 1 Acceptances, excluding Defence Medical Services, acceptances data correct as of Round One close on 26 June

		All
Round 1 Posts (as of 26 June 07)	All	15,554
	RT	11,816
	FTSTA	3,559
	Academic	179

England Summary of Round 1 Acceptances, excluding Defence Medical Services, acceptances data correct as of Round One close on 26 June

		All
Applicants	All	29,193
	Eligible	27,849
All Acceptances	All	13,168
	RT	10,804
	FTSTA	2,262
	Academic	102
Fill Rate	All	85%
	RT	91%
	FTSTA	64%
	Academic	57%

Round 1 fill-rate by specialty (Royal College groupings)

Royal College	Fill rate (percentage of posts filled at close of Round One
Anaesthetists	75%
Anaesthetists/Physicians	76%
Emergency Medicine	82%
General Practitioners	98%
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	74%
Ophthalmologists	81%
Paediatrics and Child Health	83%
Pathologists	91%
Physicians	85%
Physicians/Pathologists	92%
Psychiatrists	82%
Radiologists	99%
Surgeons	79%

Round fill-rate by Unit of Application (Deanery)

Unit of Application	Fill-rate (percentage of posts filled at close of Round One)
Eastern	84%
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	80%
London/KSS	89%
Mersey	91%
North Western	92%
Northern	77%
Oxford	77%
Severn	88%
South Yorkshire & South Humber	74%
Southwest Peninsula	74%
Trent	64%
Wessex	83%
West Midlands	77%
Yorkshire	94%

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Regulator

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): I am today announcing the arrangements we have put in hand to establish the

post of forensic science regulator whose role will be to advise Government and the Criminal Justice System on quality standards in the provision of forensic science. This will involve identifying the requirement for new or improved quality standards; leading on the development of new standards where necessary; providing advice and guidance so that providers will be able to demonstrate compliance with common standards, for example, in procurement and in courts; ensuring that satisfactory arrangements exist to provide assurance and monitoring of the standards and reporting on quality standards generally.

The regulator will be supported and advised by a Forensic Science Advisory Council whose members will be drawn from key stakeholders, expert bodies and others with a particular interest in the provision of forensic science to the Criminal Justice System. These arrangements draw on the recommendations of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in its report "Forensic Science on Trial" which was published on 16 March 2005 and on the responses to a consultation exercise carried out by the Home Office last year.

A team has been established in the Home Office under the management of a senior civil servant to set up the Office of the Regulator and the Forensic Science Advisory Council. The regulator will be appointed by the Home Secretary following recruitment through the public appointments process. Pending this recruitment, the responsible official will serve as the interim regulator.

JUSTICE

Prison Places

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): In his statement on Tuesday 19 June, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 96 that the Government were to provide an additional 1,500 prison places, the then Lord Chancellor agreed to make available the information about where the first 500 of those new places would be located. That information is given in the following table.

Prison Location [1]	*Security Category* [2]	*Build Type* [3]	*Number of Places*	*Planned Operational Date* [4]
Blundeston, Lowestoft, Suffolk	C - Trainer	TCM	60	January 2008
Erlestoke, Devizes, Wiltshire	C - Trainer	TCM	60	January 2008
Kirklevington Grange, Yarm, Cleveland	C/D - Resettlement	TCM	60	February 2008
Ranby, Retford, Nottinghamshire	C - Trainer	TCM	60	February 2008
Isle of Wight	Conversion of Existing Buildings		68	March 2008
Wymott, Preston, Lancashire	C - Trainer	RBRU	64	July 2008
Ashwell, Oakham, Rutland	C - Resettlement	RBRU	64	August 2008
Highpoint, Newmarket, Suffolk	C	RBRU	64	August 2008
Total Number of Places		-	*500*	

Notes:

[1] All new places are in existing adult male prisons.

[2] All prisoners are given a security categorisation when they enter prison. These categories are based on the likelihood that they will try to escape, and the danger to the public if they did escape. The description of Category C prisoners is: prisoners who cannot be trusted in open conditions but who do not have the resources and will to make a determined escape attempt.

[3] TCM: Temporary Custodial Module - RBRU: Rapid Build Residential Unit

[4] This is the month when the first prisoners are expected to occupy the additional capacity places that have been built.

Officials from the Ministry of Justice have made initial contact with the relevant local planning authorities, and will discuss the plans fully with those authorities over the next few months. Separate letters have been sent to the MPs for the constituencies concerned.

An announcement about decisions on the remaining 1,000 places will be made after Lord Carter has completed his review of the prison building programme, that was also referred to in the announcement on 19 June.

Children's Fund Accounts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Court Funds Office (CFO), an associated office of the Ministry of Justice, provides a banking and investment service for funds held in court. The work is governed by the Administration Act 1982, the civil procedure rules and the court funds rules. CFO manages some £4.5 billion in a mixture of cash and equity holdings. Investment on behalf of children is generally made into the equity index tracker fund, which is managed on behalf of the Ministry of Justice by Legal & General, who are one of the largest managers of index tracker funds in the UK.

A recent review of children's damages awards that are held in court and administered by the CFO identified a requirement to correct a number of children's accounts, to ensure that the award is appropriately invested as originally directed by the court. Where the award is more than £5,000 and the child is under 13 years of age, part of the award would usually be placed in an index tracker fund. In a number of cases this investment in equities did not take place.

Prompt action is now being taken to identify all affected cases and where the consequence has been a lower rate of return, to pay the balance necessary to ensure beneficiaries are not disadvantaged. The administrative failures, which led to this situation, have been addressed to ensure cases are invested in accordance with the courts' directions without delay.

The process for calculating the correction payments has been reviewed by a city firm of accountants and also by the strategic investment board, which is a panel of appointed financial experts that provides generic investment advice to the Ministry of Justice in respect of its clients.

It is estimated that approximately 4,000 current and closed cases have been affected and that the full cost of corrective payments will be approximately £12.5 million. This is out of a total of 90,000 current children's cases holding nearly £650 million in cash and investments, and 1.1 million closed cases.

Letters providing full details of the corrected accounts are being sent to all litigation friends who represent the children involved.

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 14 June the Ministry of Justice received the results of two unannounced inspections, by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI), into Oakhill secure training centre. They assessed the centre's development as poor.

As a result I wish to inform the House that a new director has been appointed. Malcolm Stevens took up post on 9 July.

The inspections confirmed concerns raised by the Youth Justice Board regarding levels of order and control at the centre. The CSCI reports will be published in due course.

The Youth Justice Board has required Mr. Stevens to set out how he would improve performance at the centre, which is operated by G4S.

The Youth Justice Board will monitor performance closely and expects to see rapid progress. If this is not the case further action will be taken and in this event I will update the House.

President of Appeal Tribunals Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has today published the seventh report by the president of appeal tribunals on the standards of decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in cases which came before appeal tribunals. The major reasons given for appeal tribunals overturning or amending decisions were because new evidence was produced at the hearing or the tribunal took a different view of the same evidence.

In his report, the president acknowledges improvements by some Department of Work and Pensions agencies, particularly the Disability and Carers Service. He also recognises the work done by the Department to improve the standards of medical reports.

The Tribunal's Service has in place a number of partnership agreements with Department for Work and Pensions agencies, who deal with benefits and make decisions on behalf of the Secretary of State, covering the interface as part of the end to end process of administering appeals. In addition to the agreements, regular meetings are held to review respective performance and discuss any issues to improve customer service.

This is the first report published by the Ministry of Justice as responsibility for appeal tribunals transferred from the Department of Work and pensions from 1 April 2006.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at www.tribunals.gov.uk

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 25 June 2007

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Flexible Working

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment the Government has made of the merits of encouraging employers to advertise posts as available for flexible working to help lone parents and carers back into the workplace; and if she will make a statement. [140850]

Meg Munn: The benefits of advertising posts as available for flexible working are to give employers access to a bigger pool of potential employees, including lone parents and carers. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Women (Ruth Kelly) opened a debate on how to take flexible working into account in the recruitment process in a speech to employers on 16 May 2007 at the Work Wise UK Summit 2007. Many employers already advertise posts as suitable for job share or flexible hours and there are specialist recruitment agencies which bring together people looking for flexible work and the jobs that can be done flexibly, but these are still the exception.

SCOTLAND

Absent Voting

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints were lodged with returning officers in respect of people not receiving their postal ballot papers in time to vote in the recent Scottish elections in May, broken down by Scottish *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* region. [145652]

David Cairns: Returning Officers are not required to provide this information to the Secretary of State. This information is not held centrally.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last year; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143878]

David Cairns: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who are both committed to achieving a work life balance for all staff. No staff in the Office have formally worked from home in the last year.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143901]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not directly employ any staff; all staff are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, as necessary. The Office does not hold personnel records that would allow age to be determined.

The gender breakdown of the Scotland Office, and information on disabled staff, is published in the Office's annual reports, copies of which have been placed in the House Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143918]

David Cairns: The gender breakdown of the Scotland Office and information on disabled staff is published in the Office's annual report, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library. The staff in the Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and the Scotland Office does not hold personnel records that would allow age to be determined.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143789]

David Cairns: None.

Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has met Scottish Ministers to discuss the Electoral Commission's statutory review of the Scottish parliamentary elections. [145653]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have not had any discussions with Scottish Ministers on this issue. The Electoral Commission and its statutory review are both independent of Government. The Commission is only bound by statute to report on the Scottish Parliament election but, at the request of Scottish Ministers, will also include the Scottish local government election.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he was consulted on the final ballot papers adopted for the Scottish parliamentary elections in May which were issued to voters. [145654]

David Cairns: Returning Officers were not required to consult the Secretary of State on the final ballot papers issued to voters for the Scottish Parliament

elections in May. The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007 sets out the rules that Returning Officers are required to follow in printing the ballot paper.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what level of consultation was undertaken with political parties about the design and format of ballot papers used in the Glasgow and Lothian regions for the recent Scottish parliamentary elections. [145655]

David Cairns: There is no duty on Returning Officers to consult political parties on the design of ballot papers to be used in their area. They are required only to follow the statutory requirements for ballot papers laid out in the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007. These statutory requirements, debated and agreed by Parliament, were finalised following a substantial consultation process, including a public consultation exercise which all political parties were invited to respond to. Many, though not all, political parties in Scotland responded to that consultation.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Armed Conflict: Journalism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions the Law Officers' Department has had with (i) European counterparts and (ii) others to seek the earliest possible compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict; and if he will make a statement. [140889]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps have been taken by the Law Officers' Department to ensure the UK's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict; and if he will make a statement. [140890]

The Solicitor-General: The United Kingdom takes seriously its obligations, under international humanitarian law, to protect journalists and other civilians in situations of armed conflict and already has in place the necessary measures to ensure compliance. The Law Officers' departments have not been required to take additional steps following the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006).

Crown Prosecution Service: Powers

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Solicitor-General what consideration the Government has given to the proposals made by the Chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission in Birmingham on 10 May, with particular reference to extending the powers of the Crown Prosecution Service relating to the instigation and conduct of prosecutions to those areas currently within the remit of the Health and Safety Executive and other regulatory or enforcement bodies; and if the Government will respond to the proposals. [144215]

The Solicitor-General: There are no plans, at present, to extend the powers of the Crown Prosecution Service, which are set out in the Prosecutions of Offences Act 1985.

Data Protection: Prosecutions

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General what criteria are followed by the Director of Public Prosecutions in deciding whether to give his consent pursuant to section 60 of the Data Protection Act 1998 to a prosecution for a non-notification offence under that Act. [144334]

The Solicitor-General: In cases requiring the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, specific consideration must be given to the decision to institute or continue proceedings.

A crown prosecutor can give consent on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions by virtue of section 1(7) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The decision to grant consent should be taken applying the principles set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the CPS's policies. Consent cases should be reviewed at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors is a publicly available document, which can be accessed from the CPS's website at

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/code2004english.pdf

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was; [139444]

(2) how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its non-departmental agencies in each of the last five years. [139529]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments advertise solely for recruitment purposes, with one exception: within the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) the specialist Bona Vacantia division regularly places advertisements in the press seeking kin in cases where individuals have died intestate with no apparent claimants to the estate under administration. The costs for this activity are treated as an expense on the Crown Nominee's Account that is presented separately to Parliament.

The Law Officers' Departments' expenditure in the last five years on recruitment was as follows:

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
TSol	132,718	128,124	50,786	125,611	*132,891
HMCPSI	15,283	53,859	11,914	54,332	63,875
RCPO	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,634	9,634
SFO	n/a	7,252	26,745	42,236	51,259
CPS	n/a	n/a	n/a	356,986	437,881
Totals	148,001	189,235	89,445	588,769	695,540

n/a = not available

The Treasury Solicitor also handles recruitment advertising for the Attorney General's Office, and for HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office was established in April 2005 and therefore has no data before this.

The Crown Prosecution Service recruitment advertising costs prior to 2005 are not available as they are not recorded centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Serious Fraud Office uses the services of a media agency, WDAD, who are an approved supplier under a Cabinet Office framework.

The CPS uses Barkers to place its advertisements through a Central Office of Information contract.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for the Law Officers' Departments was in each of the last five years. [139464]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments' expenditure is set out in the following table, where the figures for the Attorney-General's Office and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate are included within the Treasury Solicitor figures:

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
TSol	1,107,017	1,040,500	1,040,513	2,754,822	[1]4,005,836
RCPO	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	1,591,000	1,789,000
SFO	1,499,380	1,605,518	1,672,570	2,295,100	2,718,206
CPS	33,461,460	36,593,182	38,428,070	36,047,186	37,822,083
Totals	36,067,857	39,239,200	41,141,153	42,688,108	46,335,125

[1] Forecast
[2] The Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office was established in April 2005 and therefore has no data before this.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General how much has been spent by the Law Officers' Departments on public relations in each of the last five years. [139450]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments' publicity and press work is conducted by its in-house Press and Communications Teams. It is not possible to distinguish the costs of their proactive public relations work from that of reactive media handling.

No external PR agencies have been used by the Law Officers' Departments during this period.

Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland: Annual Reports

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the annual report of the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland for 2006-07 will include statistics on *(a)* reported race crimes, *(b)* cases prosecuted, *(c)* cases securing convictions and *(d)* cases not prosecuted; and if he will make a statement. [127180]

The Solicitor-General: The Public Prosecution Service published its first annual report last year and the report for 2006-07 will be published in July. The PPS does compile figures on race crimes and those figures can be made available on request. However, last year's and this year's report, although providing full statistics on case numbers and outcomes, does not break the figures down by individual offence. Whilst to publish race crime statistics alone in the report would be anomalous, a more detailed breakdown will be provided for the 2007-08 report.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Cathedral Buildings

27. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the Commissioners' policy is on the use of cathedral buildings by the creative media industry. [144687]

Sir Stuart Bell: As 'Building Faith in Our Future' shows, the Church is not precious about the uses to which cathedral buildings are put in serving the wider community so long as we always remember their role as centres of worship and mission and as iconic parts of the nation's heritage.

Church Properties

28. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much the Church Commissioners received from commercial organisations from *(a)* advertising on church buildings and *(b)* using church properties for telecommunication purposes in the last 12 months. [144688]

Sir Stuart Bell: Records are not kept centrally. In each case, agreements are formed between the individual cathedral and the church authorities and the commercial organisations in question.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether a report has been received from Sir Kevin Tebbit's review of the management and services of the House. [144770]

Nick Harvey: Yes. It is published today as House of Commons paper HC 685 and is available on the internet at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcomm/685/685.pdf.

The Commission is very grateful to Sir Kevin Tebbit and his team for their thorough analysis and recommendations. The report will be considered by the Administration, Finance and Services and Audit Committees and be debated after the summer recess. The Commission has invited the Board of Management

to consider the report and prepare a programme for taking forward its proposals, subject to points made by Members in the debate. The Commission will consider the report again and decide upon its recommendations in the autumn after views from Members of the House and the House administration have been made known.

WALES

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145303]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have fuel cards.

Corporate credit cards were introduced in the Wales Office in April 2004.

The amount spent on corporate credit cards is as follows:

	£
2004-05	1,213.41
2005-06	4,371.46
2006-07	13,950.40

Information on the Government procurement card is not kept in this format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Increased spending on credit cards is the result of an active programme within the Wales Office to encourage their use. This has produced significant savings on processing and transaction costs. As such, the increase reflects greater usage of cards, rather than increased overall spend.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145691]

Mr. Hain: This information is not systematically recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145696]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has only recruited existing civil servants. In accordance with good practice and anti-age discrimination, candidates for Wales Office jobs are not asked to provide their dates of birth on applications.

As such, this information is not systematically recorded, and collating it could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145284]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143785]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office uses the Ministry of Justice procurement systems and the Office of Government Commerce on line procurement services.

To date Remploy have not featured in either of those sources. We are aware of the services they offer and subject to our value for money and sustainable development criteria being met would consider a Remploy tender via those procurement channels.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145268]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months the Wales Office participated in one staff opinion survey conducted by the Ministry of Justice. There was no cost to the Wales Office.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office Reports

26. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what recent reports the Commission has considered from the appointed auditor of the National Audit Office; and if he will make a statement. [144686]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Public Accounts Commission considers each year, usually in July, the auditors' report on the National Audit Office's annual resource account and on the NAO's statement on the financial impact of its work. It also considers at the same time the auditors' annual value for money examination of an aspect of the Office's operations. This was last done in July 2006. The Commission expects to receive the next set of reports from the auditors in July this year.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by staff in his Office via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145297]

Mr. Straw: This information is not currently available in the format requested following the Machinery of Government transfer of my office from the Privy Council Office to the Cabinet Office. However, on occasion my Office has used corporate credit and procurement cards, mainly with regard to the booking of travel. Fuel cards are not used by my Office.

Departments: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Leader of the House what the rate of employer contributions to the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Scheme is for 2007-08; what savings he estimates would result from capping the rate to 14 per cent. for each year from 2007-08 to 2020-22; and if he will make a statement. [144272]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 30 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W.

Limiting the Exchequer contribution to 14 per cent. would, if the actuarial valuation assumptions are borne out in practice, reduce the contribution by 12.8 per cent. of pensionable pay for the period up to 2020-21. Based on an estimated total pensionable pay for 2007-08 of £44.5 million, reducing the Exchequer contribution to 14 per cent. would represent a £5.7 million per annum saving.

The PCPF is a "balance of cost" scheme whereby the Exchequer makes up the balance of cost after taking account of pension benefits and payments, Member contributions and investment returns. Reducing the Exchequer contributions until 2020-21 would increase the level of deficit, which would eventually need to be paid by the Exchequer or by increasing Member contributions, reducing the level of pension benefits or a combination of these.

Members: Cycling

Martin Horwood: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to enable hon. Members to register with the Government's cycle to work scheme; and if he will make a statement. [144810]

Mr. Straw: The cycle to work scheme is designed for the employees of participating organisations. Members of Parliament are not employees of the House of Commons but office-holders and as such are not eligible. However, Members of Parliament are entitled to claim a bicycle allowance of 20p per mile for official travel, a rate which provides an incentive to use an environmentally-friendly means of travel and is approved by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Written Questions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2147W, on written questions, when he expects to complete his assessment of whether to publish in the *Official Report* letters written to hon. Members in lieu of written parliamentary answers. [145809]

Mr. Straw: Letters sent to hon. Members from Ministers or from the heads of Executive Agencies in response to a parliamentary question are already published in the *Official Report*, except where there are issues of confidentiality or undue length. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 21 July 2004 *Official Report*, column 35WS, and the written answer of 26 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 345W. In respect of letters from non-departmental public bodies, following the hon. Member's earlier question I wrote to the chairman of the Procedure Committee asking that the Committee examine the issues involved.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Coordination

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what shared service initiatives have been completed within Government; and what assessment she has made of their effectiveness. [145068]

Mr. McFadden: Shared Services is a key part of Transformational Government and there has been significant progress across central Government. MOD, DWP, HMRC, Prison Service, DfT and DEFRA have all established shared HR and Finance Services.

The NHS Shared Business Service has saved over 100 trusts an average of 34 per cent. of the cost of processing finance transactions through shared finance services. It is on track to deliver savings of more than £220 million over 10 years. The Ministry of Defence's People, Pay and Pensions Agency is reducing costs at the same time as improving quality. Through sharing and related reforms, the Department is expecting a net benefit of over £300 million during the next 10 years. Transport for London saved approximately 30 per cent. on its human resources spend in the first year of operating its shared service centre.

Government are looking to share a variety of additional services across Government. For example, the new Cabinet Office IT contract is available to other Departments and public sector organisations.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps have recently been taken by officials *(a)* of her Department and *(b)* of the Better Regulation Executive to ensure that the Government's objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive are met. [145632]

Mr. McFadden: Cabinet Office officials, including from the Better Regulation Executive, have worked closely with the Food Standards Agency to help deliver the Government's objectives on the Food Supplements Directive, in particular on the issue of maximum permitted levels for minerals and vitamins under Article 5 of the Directive. Cabinet Office officials have also worked with the Food Standards Agency on preparing a stakeholder consultation on an initial Regulatory Impact Assessment with respect to food supplements.

Pensions: Civil Service

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the present rates of employer contributions to Civil Service Scheme pension scheme are; what estimate she has made of the cost savings for each year from 2008 to 2050 of capping the employer contribution at 14 per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [144263]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 345-46W. The rates of employer contributions have not changed, but the salary bands referred to in the answer were revalorised from 1 April 2007 by the Scheme Actuary.

I have not made any estimates of the cost savings arising from capping the employer contribution at 14 per cent.

Service Transformation Board

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the performance of the Service Transformation Board. [145032]

Mr. McFadden: The Service Transformation Board—now re-constituted as the Delivery Council—consists of officials with responsibilities for business delivery of transformation. It worked in partnership with the Chief Information Officers' (CIO) Council on the transformation of Citizen and Business Centred Services set out in the "Transformational Government (Cm 6683) report"; its initial achievements were reported in "Transformational Government: Annual Report 2006" (Cm 6970). The Delivery Council is now supporting Ministers and the Civil Service Steering Board in the next stages of the Transformational Government strategy including the implementation of Sir David Varney's report "Service Transformation: A better service for citizens and businesses, a better deal for the taxpayer".

V

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 46W, on V, what definition she uses of a volunteering opportunity. [145180]

Edward Miliband: V's definition of a volunteering opportunity is available on their website at:

http://www.wearev.com/vlearning/index.php

a copy of which I place in the Library for the reference of Members.

PRIME MINISTER

Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister which people who received honours in Her Majesty the Queen's birthday honours are *(a)* citizens of the Irish Republic, *(b)* citizens of Commonwealth countries, other than the UK and *(c)* citizens of non-UK countries other than the Irish Republic or Commonwealth countries. [144400]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

IBM Corporation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1428W, on the IBM Corporation, what the cost was to the public purse of the meeting; whether he received any gifts from Mr. Gerstner; and what meetings he has had since that date with representatives of the IBM Corporation. [144998]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1428W.

Libyan Arab Republic

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister who accompanied him on his recent visit to Libya; and which company or organisational affiliation each person had. [145425]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list.

All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for 2007-08 will be published in the normal way.

Lord Birt

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the contribution of Lord Birt in his role as special adviser. [145045]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my Office on 15 December 2005. The press notice is available on the Number 10 website: http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8774.asp, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister by what date he expects to respond to the letter dated 17 May from the hon. Member for Lewes on the disposal of gifts he has received. [145027]

The Prime Minister: As far as I am aware, my Office had not received the letter at the time this question was tabled.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials in 10 Downing street have received from (i) the Government of Saudi Arabia and (ii) its representatives on the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into defence orders for Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [145401]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1610W, by my hon. Friend the Minister for State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Dr. Howells).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what advice he sought from the heads of the UK's security and intelligence agencies in relation to the impact on national security and foreign policy objectives in the Middle East of the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into the al-Yamamah defence sales contract; when such advice was requested; and if he will make a statement. [143715]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my hon. and learned Friend the Solicitor-General on 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1119-20, and to his response during the debate on 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 875-76.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Coordination

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in co-ordinating the development of Government policy since May 2006. [145092]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my Department's annual report, copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departments: Official Gifts

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what gifts he received on his recent visit to the West Indies. [145028]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government publish an annual list of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140. Information relating to 2007-08 will be published as soon as it is available at the end of the financial year.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost was of such flights. [144950]

Mr. Hain: All travel by civil servants or Ministers is undertaken in accordance with civil service rules and procedures, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. These combined figures for the years in question are set out in the following table.

	Flights	*Cost (£)*
April 2004 to December 2004	137	122,308.51
January 2005 to December 2005	258	238,704.47
January 2006 to December 2006	160	148,342.60

Figures for January 2004 to March 2004 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144949]

Mr. Hain: The Department has a variety of light fittings which accept a wide range of bulbs. No records are kept of the numbers or frequency of bulb replacement and the cost of obtaining these figures would be disproportionate. Energy saving light bulbs are, where practicable, the preferred type of light bulb.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143900]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of staff employed within the Northern Ireland Office granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in each of the last three years who were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over.

	Temporary		*Permanent*	
	Part-time	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*
2004				
Male	—	25	—	86
Female	—	23	1	91
Disabled	—	—	—	3
55+		1		3
2005				
Male	—	36	—	50
Female	—	33	1	74
Disabled	—	—	—	1
55+	—	—	—	1

	Temporary		Permanent	
	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time
2006				
Male	—	33	—	55
Female	—	28	2	84
Disabled	—	—	—	3
55+	—	1	1	1

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145701]

Paul Goggins: The figures in relation to the Northern Ireland Office are as follows:

2004: Four staff recruited aged 55 years or over; this represents 1.7 per cent. of new recruits. Zero staff recruited aged 60 years or over.

2005: One member of staff recruited aged 55 years or over; this represents 0.5 per cent. of new recruits. Zero staff recruited aged 60 years or over.

2006: Three staff recruited aged 55 years or over; this represents 1.5 per cent. of new recruits. One member of staff recruited aged 60 years or over; this represents 0.5 per cent. of new recruits.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145263]

Mr. Hain: The NIO undertook two staff surveys in the last 12 months at a total cost of £3,107. One was a periodical departmental staff survey which cost £3,107 and the other was a survey carried out in-house at zero costs by the Department's community safety unit. This answer relates only to the NIO and does not include its agencies or NDPBs.

Graduates

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men of (i) white, (ii) Afro-Caribbean and (iii) Asian ethnicity received (A) first class, (B) upper second class and (C) lower second class degrees in Northern Irish universities in the last five years for which figures are available. [145400]

Mr. Hain: This is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* attempted suicides and *(b)* self-harm incidents were recorded for juveniles at the Juvenile Justice Centre in each of the last three years. [143300]

Maria Eagle: The threat of suicide in custody is prevalent and the Juvenile Justice Centre operates a system of risk assessment to detect and manage suicidal and self-harm tendencies in young people. There have been no serious attempts at suicide in the last three years. Information relating to incidents of self-harm is recorded on individual case files and is not centrally co-ordinated. All incidents of self-harm, whether threatened or real, are treated seriously and intervention and support procedures exist to minimise the risk of recurrence and to ensure the continuing safety of young people at the centre.

Prisoner Escapes

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2201W, on prisoner escapes, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the fall in the number of *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions in 2005; and what steps he is taking to (i) reduce the number of escapees and (ii) achieve a higher conviction rate. [128031]

Paul Goggins: The fall in the numbers of prosecutions and convictions in relation to escape from lawful custody offences since 2005 may partly reflect a change in policy, whereby prisoners who were granted temporary leave but failed to return on the agreed date were no longer automatically charged with an offence. Only in cases where the prisoner had been unlawfully at large for longer than eight weeks was a prosecution sought.

Under new proposals, however, PSNI will be notified as soon as a person has been unlawfully at large for seven days or more, with a view to prosecution. Notification may also be made for periods less than seven days, when the Governor in question considers this is justified by the circumstances of the case.

In addition, the PSNI have recently agreed new reporting procedures with the Northern Ireland Prison Service to ensure that all such cases will now be investigated and reported to the PPS. This will increase the number of convictions being achieved.

The procedures surrounding the supervision of prisoners both within and outside of prison establishments are constantly reviewed to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness and to minimise the possibility of escapes.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of sexual assault were reported in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years *(a)* in total, *(b)* in each parliamentary constituency and *(c)* in each council area. [145336]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI that statistics are collected by District Command Units which are coterminous with council areas. These statistics are set out in the following table. The data are not collated by other areas and therefore not available broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Sexual offences recorded by PSNI

PSNI District Command Units	Sexual assaults 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	22	33	44
Ards	39	57	43
East Belfast	66	46	63
North Belfast	75	72	66
South Belfast	94	90	99
West Belfast	45	38	45
Carrickfergus	24	14	25
Castlereagh	15	31	28
Larne	27	14	16
Lisburn	65	69	78
Newtownabbey	49	51	54
North Down	40	49	46
Urban region total	561	564	607
Armagh	26	26	25
Ballymena	46	58	48
Ballymoney	13	13	14
Banbridge	21	18	19
Coleraine	42		58
Cookstown	12	17	14
Craigavon	46	67	54
Down	31	42	32
Dungannon and South Tyrone	28	21	28
Fermanagh	31	24	43
Foyle	115	139	135
Limavady	25	23	32
Magherafelt	18	21	24
Moyle	11	12	6
Newry and Mourne	36	35	47
Omagh	36	38	49
Strabane	28	23	35
Rural region total	565	635	647
Northern Ireland	1,126	1,199	1,254

Note:
Sexual assault includes the following offences: rape, attempted rape, indecent assault on a female, indecent assault on a female child, indecent assault on a male, indecent assault on a male child.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of serious sexual crimes reported in Northern Ireland resulted in conviction in the courts in each of the last three years. [145462]

Maria Eagle: Data relating to the number and percentage of serious sexual crimes reported that result in a conviction are not available as figures relating to recorded crime are collected on a different basis from those of prosecutions and convictions. Recorded crime figures relate to the number of notifiable crimes reported whereas prosecutions and convictions refer to the number of offenders who have been subsequently charged for offences. In addition, recorded crime figures incorporate each offence as initially recorded and these may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against.

Table 1-3 gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for indictable sexual offences by individual offence and percentage of prosecutions that resulted in a conviction.

Data cover the calendar years 2003 to 2005, the latest available years and are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of prosecutions and convictions and percentage convicted for indictable sexual offences by individual offence 2003

Offence	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage
Rape	26	8	31
Attempted rape[1]	5	2	40
Buggery	2	1	50
Gross indecency with child	8	6	75
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	1	1	100
Buggery with woman	1	0	0
Buggery with girl	1	0	0
Gross indecency with a male under 21 years	1	1	100
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	1	100
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	5	5	100
Indecent assault on female	90	57	63
Indecent assault on male	11	6	55
Indecent assault on female child	7	3	43
Indecent assault on male child	1	0	0
Indecent exposure with intent to assault a female	6	2	33
Bigamy	2	2	100
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	0	0
Possessing indecent photograph of a child	3	2	67
Taking indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photographs of children	10	9	90
Copying indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph(s) of children	1	1	100
Taking indecent photographs	1	1	100
Total	184	108	59

[1] Includes assault with intent to rape.

Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions and percentage convicted for indictable sexual offences by individual offence 2004

Offence	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage
Rape	29	15	52
Attempted rape[1]	8	3	38
Gross indecency with child	5	3	60
Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent	1	0	0

Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions and percentage convicted for indictable sexual offences by individual offence 2004

Offence	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	11	6	55
Buggery with woman	1	1	100
Buggery with girl	3	1	33
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	4	4	100
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	3	2	67
Indecent assault on female	89	57	64
Indecent assault on male	20	17	85
Indecent assault on female child	8	3	38
Indecent assault on male child	6	4	67
Indecent exposure with intent to assault a female	3	2	67
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	1	100
Possession of indecent or pseudo photograph(s) with a view to distribution	1	1	100
Taking indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photographs of children	9	8	89
Copying indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph(s) of children	2	2	100
Making indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph (s) of children	7	7	100
Total	211	137	65

[1] Includes assault with intent to rape.

Table 3: Number of prosecutions and convictions and percentage convicted for indictable sexual offences by individual offence 2005

Offence	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage
Rape	21	4	19
Attempted rape[1]	9	4	44
Gross indecency with child	10	6	60
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	3	1	33
Buggery with girl	2	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	4	3	75
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	4	4	100
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	1	1	100
Incest by man	1	1	100
Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her	1	0	0
Indecent assault on female	85	51	60
Indecent assault on male	16	11	69
Indecent assault on female child	20	18	90
Indecent assault on male child	8	5	63
Indecent exposure with intent to assault a female	5	2	40
Exposure	3	3	100
Voyeurism	2	2	100
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	7	6	86
Breach of interim Sex Offender' s Prevention Order	1	1	100
Bigamy	1	1	100
Distributing indecent photographs of children	2	1	50
Possessing indecent photograph of a child	2	0	0
Taking indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photographs of children	1	1	100
Making indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph (s) of children	11	10	91
Total	220	136	62

[1] Includes assault with intent to rape.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of sexual offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years, broken down by offence. [145486]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for sexual offences by individual offence.

Data cover the calendar years 2003 to 2005 and are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: number of prosecutions and convictions for sexual offences by individual offence 2003-05

	2003		2004		2005	
Offence	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Rape	26	8	29	15	21	4
Attempted rape[1]	5	2	8	3	9	4
Buggery	2	1	0	0	0	0
Gross indecency with child	8	6	5	3	10	6

Table 1: number of prosecutions and convictions for sexual offences by individual offence 2003-05

	2003		2004		2005	
Offence	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Buggery with male person, 16 years or over without consent	0	0	1	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years of age	1	1	11	6	3	1
Buggery with woman	1	0	1	1	0	0
Buggery with girl	1	0	3	1	2	0
Gross indecency with a male under 21 years	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	1	4	4	4	3
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	5	5	3	2	4	4
Permitting girl under 17 to use premises for intercourse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Incest by man	0	0	0	0	1	1
Forcibly abducting a female with intent to carnally know her	0	0	0	0	1	0
Indecent assault on female	90	57	89	57	85	51
Indecent assault on male	11	6	20	17	16	11
Indecent assault on female child	7	3	8	3	20	18
Indecent assault on male child	1	0	6	4	8	5
Indecent exposure with intent to assault a female	6	2	3	2	5	2
Exposure	0	0	0	0	3	3
Voyeurism	0	0	0	0	2	2
Sex offender failing to notify police of change of address	0	0	0	0	7	6
Breach of interim Sex Offender's Prevention Order	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bigamy	2	2	0	0	1	1
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	0	1	1	2	1
Possessing indecent photographs of children	1	1	1	1	2	2
Possessing indecent photograph of a child	3	2	0	0	2	0
Possession of indecent or pseudo photograph(s) with a view to distribution	0	0	1	1	0	0
Taking indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photographs of children	10	9	9	8	1	1
Copying indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph(s) of children	1	1	2	2	0	0
Making indecent photograph(s) or pseudo photograph (s) of children	0	0	7	7	11	10
Taking indecent photographs	1	1	0	0	0	0
Failure to provide information to police on sex offences	6	6	6	4	3	3
Brothel keeping	0	0	1	1	3	3
Soliciting	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	191	115	220	144	228	144

[1] Includes assault with intent to rape.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much revenue was generated through the issuing of speeding tickets in *(a)* each constituency and *(b)* each council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how many tickets were issued in each area during that period. [142632]

Paul Goggins: Fixed penalty notices fall into two categories. The first is an endorsable fixed penalty notice which means there will be points placed on the individual's driving licence (a licence endorsement) as well as a fixed penalty fine. The second is a non-endorsable fixed penalty notice where there is only a fine. Revenue from the latter category is not paid to the PSNI.

Revenue from endorsable fixed penalty notices issued for excess speed is set out as follows.

The two tables take account of the change in policing structures from RUC sub divisions to PSNI district command units.

Table 1: Fixed penalty notices by sub-division for the period 1 October 1997-31 March 2001

	1997 (1 October-31 December)		1998		1999	
Sub-divisional area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Antrim	150	5,600	643	22,280	642	20,240
Antrim Road	25	840	106	3,840	149	4,840
Armagh	25	840	159	5,640	255	7,640
Ballymena	337	11,480	1,054	34,640	724	23,520
Ballymoney	50	1,840	280	10,240	214	7,200
Banbridge	163	5,240	805	23,560	444	14,400
Bangor	155	5,480	795	27,880	603	20,040
Carrickfergus	32	1,120	231	8,680	341	11,080
Castlereagh	212	6,880	510	16,400	378	12,640
Coleraine	102	3,520	422	13,840	369	13,160
Cookstown	59	1,960	349	12,280	457	15,000
Donegall Pass	50	1,680	116	4,240	115	4,520
Downpatrick	142	4,320	528	16,560	483	14,920
Dungannon	107	3,320	408	14,720	609	19,320
Dunmurry	80	2,880	489	17,400	448	15,120
Enniskillen	92	3,120	272	9,120	163	5,720
Grosvenor Road	6	240	24	640	44	1,440
Larne	66	2,080	186	6,480	251	6,680
Limavady	48	1,520	179	5,880	197	7,000
Lisburn	78	3,120	503	18,280	554	18,960
Limaskea	64	2,480	347	11,400	170	6,240
Lurgan	96	2,960	420	14,160	493	17,240
Magherafelt	107	3,240	507	16,200	396	13,360
Mountpottinger	11	280	36	1,120	12	320
Musgrave Street	4	160	24	800	57	1,960
Newcastle	52	1,600	281	9,880	279	9,080
Newry	54	2,000	174	6,320	225	8,120
Newtownabbey	80	2,720	461	16,040	477	15,960
Newtownards	159	5,640	574	18,240	509	16,440
North Queen Street	27	840	86	2,640	150	4,640
Omagh	133	4,520	748	24,160	829	27,320
Portadown	63	2,040	416	14,560	358	11,760
Strabane	38	1,440	162	5,680	118	3,920
Strand Road	29	840	209	6,600	142	4,560
Strand town	205	6,600	924	30,320	727	24,760
Tennent Street	27	1,000	58	1,760	60	1,920
Waterside	58	2,000	406	14,240	377	11,560
Woodbourne	20	400	43	1,480	53	1,640
Unknown	362	12,080	44	400	210	6,560
Total	3,570	119,920	13,979	468,600	13,082	430,800

	2000		2001 (1 January-31 March)	
Sub-divisional area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Antrim	571	19,160	146	5,620
Antrim Road	111	3,640	43	1,320
Armagh	151	5,080	69	2,080
Ballymena	599	19,560	87	3,080
Ballymoney	196	6,000	13	800
Banbridge	677	23,400	126	4,760
Bangor	342	10,880	127	4,460
Carrickfergus	343	11,560	124	4,540
Castlereagh	386	13,040	107	3,980
Coleraine	223	8,040	108	4,200

	2000		2001 (1 January-31 March)	
Sub-divisional area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Cookstown	216	7,520	44	1,680
Donegall Pass	107	3,800	13	540
Downpatrick	259	8,920	66	2,560
Dungannon	445	15,480	44	1,580
Dunmurry	464	17,040	97	3,040
Enniskillen	179	6,280	42	1,420
Grosvenor Road	31	1,000	2	80
Larne	194	6,880	65	1,860
Limavady	200	7,120	52	1,960
Lisburn	389	13,240	76	2,880
Limaskea	125	4,120	25	1,120
Lurgan	470	15,600	67	2,000
Magherafelt	242	8,080	41	1,580
Mountpottinger	29	1,000	5	200
Musgrave Street	11	440	11	280
Newcastle	130	4,640	32	1,400
Newry	225	7,880	83	2,880
Newtownabbey	525	18,440	94	2,980
Newtownards	295	10,760	97	3,700
North Queen Street	132	4,640	28	1,160
Omagh	583	19,000	130	4,080
Portadown	403	13,480	57	1,680
Strabane	77	2,360	23	960
Strand Road	111	3,480	37	1,380
Strand town	556	18,800	106	4,120
Tennent Street	71	2,520	13	360
Waterside	281	9,320	63	2,440
Woodbourne	65	2,200	7	280
Unknown	133	4,920	14	480
Total	10,507	359,320	2,366	85,220

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices by district command unit for the period 1 April 2001-31 December 2006

	2001 (1 April-31 December)		2002		2003	
DCU area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Antrim	362	17,620	252	12,940	699	35,940
Armagh	318	17,860	345	18,420	222	10,680
Ballymena	438	24,460	497	25,380	771	40,260
Ballymoney	164	9,120	159	8,580	259	14,220
Banbridge	776	36,970	483	22,380	258	12,460
Belfast East	272	13,440	151	8,120	400	19,680
Belfast North	128	5,520	62	3,360	372	18,000
Belfast South	19	1,020	94	4,440	507	25,860
Belfast West	13	780	52	2,760	105	4,740
Carrickfergus	192	9,740	182	9,360	267	13,380
Castlereagh	309	14,380	132	6,480	457	23,100
Coleraine	290	14,880	333	16,980	402	19,920
Cookstown	181	8,280	180	9,120	255	13,500
Craigavon	532	27,260	469	24,060	581	29,100
Down	430	22,180	340	27,120	484	23,160
Dungannon	245	12,300	239	11,820	298	14,520
Fermanagh	270	13,480	319	17,340	318	17,400
Foyle	394	20,600	289	13,860	473	23,100
Larne	179	9,380	158	8,280	179	8,580

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices by district command unit for the period 1 April 2001-31 December 2006

	2001 (1 April-31 December)		2002		2003	
DCU area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Limavady	294	15,240	220	11,040	306	15,480
Lisburn	259	12,600	229	11,940	583	29,820
Magherafelt	268	14,180	332	17,280	373	17,580
Moyle	—	—	15	900	46	2,400
Newry and Mourne	249	12,100	271	12,900	253	13,020
Newtownabbey	209	11,680	244	11,640	545	28,500
Newtownards	339	18,520	425	22,380	372	18,480
North Down	164	8,300	127	6,400	326	16,080
Omagh	285	13,720	270	13,080	376	18,100
Strabane	150	7,560	100	4,320	85	4,260
Unknown	19	400	17	1,020	0	0
Total	7,748	394,070	7,186	363,700	10,572	531,320

	2004		2005		2006	
DCU area	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*	*FPNs issued*	*Revenue (£)*
Antrim	722	35,520	1,167	53,580	1615	77,700
Armagh	193	9,060	325	14,820	311	14,700
Ballymena	649	34,260	745	35,940	551	23,940
Ballymoney	217	11,220	200	9,960	166	8,040
Banbridge	279	11,580	401	16,260	536	25,917
Belfast East	981	47,100	1,016	44,280	913	42,900
Belfast North	208	10,320	302	13,920	202	8,400
Belfast South	629	28,860	731	34,740	583	27,060
Belfast West	88	4,200	82	3,360	82	3,240
Carrickfergus	150	7,200	79	3,780	100	4,440
Castlereagh	234	11,400	280	12,960	401	17,340
Coleraine	673	32,940	820	40,680	663	31,980
Cookstown	186	8,520	223	9,300	252	11,520
Craigavon	564	26,280	824	37,080	485	20,820
Down	485	23,700	791	37,860	483	23,340
Dungannon	311	15,660	670	28,920	620	28,200
Fermanagh	216	10,440	354	17,400	641	30,300
Foyle	698	33,360	875	36,660	650	29,280
Larne	169	9,540	221	11,580	146	6,840
Limavady	450	21,360	474	22,320	492	22,800
Lisburn	732	34,080	765	35,220	676	30,240
Magherafelt	626	30,240	618	30,360	475	22,140
Moyle	55	3,060	131	5,460	164	7,320
Newry and Mourne	376	18,480	798	34,920	765	34,020
Newtownabbey	394	19,320	319	16,140	518	26,280
Newtownards	243	13,140	340	16,260	321	14,100
North Down	394	20,400	394	16,920	306	13,680
Omagh	242	9,860	464	21,840	630	27,720
Strabane	120	4,800	215	9,660	205	10,500
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	60
Total	11,284	545,900	14,633	672,180	13,953	644,817

Zoos

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many zoos there are in Northern Ireland. [145531]

Mr. Hain: This is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial aid and assistance each British Overseas Territory received from the UK Government in 2005-06. [145544]

Mr. Thomas: The total amount of financial aid and other DFID bilateral assistance to the British overseas territories in 2005-06 is shown in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure in British overseas territory 2005-06

£000

Territory	*Financial aid*	*Other DFID assistance*	*Total*
Anguilla	5	890	895
Gibraltar	—	2	2
Montserrat	11,209	1,408	12,617
Pitcairn Island	646	1,936	2,582
St. Helena and Dependencies	9,788	3,775	13,563
Turks and Caicos Islands	-161	518	357

Note:
Negatives represent accounting adjustments, not a net flow to DFID.

British overseas territories may also receive aid from regional programmes and projects funded by DFID.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost was of such flights. [144948]

Mr. Thomas: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Dalits

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's locally employed staff in India are of Dalit origin; and at what level they are employed. [145423]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's locally engaged staff in India are recruited directly by our office in New Delhi. Its recruitment policy states that DFID does not

discriminate on the basis of sex, caste, ethnicity, religion or other diversity criteria. However, we do not ask applicants or new recruits to provide information about their background because of the sensitivities involved in India, especially with regard to caste.

We are therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144468]

Mr. Thomas: Records of Memoranda of Understanding are not held centrally, either in DFID or across Whitehall, providing the information required would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144626]

Mr. Thomas: Spending on advertising in print media for staff recruitment and procurement purposes was as follows:

	Spend (£)
2002	914,571
2003	849,196
2004	700,077
2005	397,776
2006	527,868

Expenditure on marketing and promotional campaigns since January 2002 is listed as follows. In all cases, this includes design and production of materials, and other promotional services. It is not possible to disaggregate advertising direct spend except at disproportionate cost. All the following costs are inclusive of VAT.

Developments Magazine and Rough Guide Campaign (2005)

To promote Developments Magazine and The Rough Guide to a Better World

Total: £3,642

Trade Matters Campaign (late 2005-early 2006)

To raise awareness of the role of trade in fighting world poverty and promote the availability of a new free publication—Trade Matters.

Total: £26,176

Developments Magazine Campaign (2006)

To increase the number of subscribers to the Department's free magazine—Developments.

Total: £12,934

Third White Paper on International Development (2006)

To raise awareness of the UK Government's action plan for working with overseas and international partners to reduce world poverty over the next five years.

Total: £125,000

G8 Gleneagles—One year on (2006)

To report progress on delivering the commitments proposed at the G8 summit. Newspaper supplement in *The Observer*, adverts for the supplement in *The Guardian*, and content of the supplement placed on a Guardian Unlimited microsite.

Total: £62,275

DFID has not used advertising agencies in the last five years. DFID has used the Central Office of Information (COI) to source services for promotional campaigns. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs from design and production of materials, and other promotional services, without incurring disproportionate costs.

DFID places recruitment and procurement advertisements in print media using Barkers Advertising and Marketing Agency. There is no direct cost to DFID for their services.

DFID has no Executive agencies.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145279]

Mr. Thomas: Over the 12 months up to end-May 2007, DFID launched 15 formal public consultations on its public website in order to inform the Department's policy development.

Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The consultations launched were:

DFID health strategy

Country Strategy for DFID Sierra Leone

DFID Ethiopia Country Assistance Plan

DFID Tanzania Country Assistance Plan

DFID Pakistan Country Assistance Plan

Updating "Taking Action—the UK's strategy for tackling AIDS in the developing world"

DFID's work in Latin America 2008 to 2011

DFID Regional Assistance Plan for the Caribbean

Linking Scheme—investing in raising the levels of awareness about global issues among the UK public

DFID and Volunteering

Equality for Disabled People (this was a cross-Whitehall consultation)

DFID Vietnam Country Assistance Plan

DFID Ghana Country Assistance Plan

DFID India Country Assistance Plan

Preventing Violent Conflict Policy Paper

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145262]

Mr. Thomas: DFID conducted one staff survey in the last 12 months which required external assistance. This was to gather evidence for independent assessors to measure our performance against the Investors in People standard, and cost £7,000.

During the same period, we also carried out our annual survey to assess staff perceptions of how they are managed. It covered issues such as leadership, communication, training and opportunities for development, workloads, and how valued staff feel. This, plus a small number of other internal surveys, were devised, conducted and analysed internally by our own staff at no additional cost. It is not possible to calculate the staff time cost associated with those exercises.

Developing Countries: Drugs

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the supply of fake or ineffective drugs in the developing world. [144726]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supports the World Health Organisation (WHO), through its core funding, in its efforts to help developing countries strengthen their pharmaceutical legislation, good manufacturing practices, national drug regulatory capacity and performance. The WHO also promotes information exchange among drug regulatory authorities to help combat drug counterfeiters.

DFID is working with a wide range of partners, including the WHO, developing country governments, pharmaceutical companies and non-governmental organisations, on the development of the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA).

MeTA seeks to increase transparency over vital information on the price, quality and availability of essential medicines in developing countries to help tackle high prices, challenge corruption and counterfeiting, and address inefficiency. Up to a third of medicines on the market in developing countries are fakes.

MeTA seeks to change this by securing high level political commitment to increase transparency and accountability over medicine procurement and supply in participating countries. MeTA also seeks to bring the right people around the table—Government Departments, civil society organisations, companies and others—to agree ways of disclosing information on the price, the quality and the availability of essential medicines into the public arena, with the aim of ultimately reducing the cost, improving the quality and increasing the availability of medicines.

DFID has for example provided support to Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control which has taken an active lead in reducing counterfeit drugs throughout the country.

Ethiopia: Health Services

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to facilitate the provision of healthcare free at the point of access in *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Liberia. [144757]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to helping countries that want to remove charges at the point of delivery. In the recent DFID White Paper we made a commitment to help partner governments abolish user fees for basic health services and help them tackle other barriers to access, including discrimination against women.

In 2003, as part of transition arrangements, user fees for health services in Liberia were suspended. At the end of the transition period on 31 March 2006, the President accepted the Minister of Health's recommendation that healthcare should continue to be free. We support this policy, although it is essential that it is implemented in the context of wider health sector reform, including financing, human resources, institutions, and procurement/supply chains.

DFID has agreed to extend its support to Save the Children UK in Liberia which is playing a leading role in assisting the Government with the development of pro poor policies and health financing. DFID will jointly fund the placement of an SCF-UK Technical Director for Health to work specifically on co-ordination, policy and advocacy, including on access to free healthcare.

User fees are one of several constraints to access to health care in Ethiopia, others being distance to health facilities and availability of drugs. Since more than one in five Ethiopians lives more than 10 km (or two hours walk) from a health care facility, Ethiopia's Health Sector Development Plan focuses on expanding access to primary health care services, especially preventive services, most of which are provided free. DFID helps to fund the delivery of these services through its contributions to the Protection of Basic Services grant, which supports recurrent costs of health and other services at local level and procurement of essential commodities such as vaccines, malaria drugs, bednets and contraceptives.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provided to health systems in *(a)* Liberia and *(b)* Ethiopia in each of the last five years. [144758]

Hilary Benn: As outlined in the new DFID health strategy "Working together for Better health", assisting countries to strengthen their health services is a UK priority.

In Ethiopia, DFID provided direct budget support to the Government in support of its poverty reduction strategy from January 2003 to March 2005. This included £2.9 million for strengthening of the national health system and delivery of health care. Between June 2006 and end March 2007, DFID provided a grant of £8.7 million for the Protection of Basic Services, to help fund the recurrent costs of delivering basic health care services and the procurement of key commodities including vaccines, malaria drugs, bednets and contraceptives. Since 2005, DFID has committed a total of £145,000 to a multi-donor fund to

cover costs of technical assistance, studies, consultations and meetings that are crucial to the implementation of Ethiopia's Health Sector Development Programme.

In Liberia DFID has been providing humanitarian support for health services since 2003 through Save the Children, Merlin and other NGOs. They have focused on providing basic services, working closely with Country Health Teams. These Teams will take on increasing responsibility for health service management and delivery through training and carrying out joint supervision of health facilities. DFID's support to NGOs in Liberia is structured around supporting public healthcare systems to be delivered free to the patient. As well as building capacity to strengthen systems, the support ensures payment of staff and provision of drugs.

DFID will provide up to £8 million over the next two years for building and strengthening systems at the central level. This includes support to the Ministry of Health to establish strong financial management and contributing to a proposed multi-donor fund to support Liberia to strengthen its health systems under its National Health Plan. DFID will continue to support NGOs to cover critical gaps in the provision of healthcare with increasing focus on transfer of leadership to the Government.

In Liberia, DFID bilateral expenditure on health in 2002-03 to 2006-07 was:

	£ million
2002-03	[1]0.0
2003-04	0.6
2004-05	0.8
2005-06	1.5
2006-07	[2]1.7

[1] Actual spend of £38,000
[2] Provisional

This is expected to increase to around £3-£4 million for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much the Government budgeted to spend on the reconstruction of Iraq; [145532]

(2) how much the Government have spent on rebuilding the infrastructure in Iraq since the fall of Saddam. [145534]

Hilary Benn: Since March 2003, the UK Government have budgeted £744 million for the reconstruction and development of Iraq. Our contribution will help the Iraqi Government, at provincial and national level, to plan and deliver investment in basic services (electricity, hospitals, etc.), improve oil production, generate jobs and manage its own resources more effectively.

DFID has committed over £100 million to infrastructure projects in Iraq, and disbursed over £80 million so far. Our work on improving power and water supply has helped create employment for several thousand Iraqis in repairing some of southern Iraq's key infrastructure.

DFID power projects have added or secured 350 MW of electricity to the Iraqi national grid, and will be adding or securing a further 120 MW over the next six months. This has been achieved by repairing damaged electricity transmission and distribution networks, including transmission lines from Al-Hartha power station to Basra city (securing electricity supplies for 1.5 million residents), and the Al-Hartha power station chimney (securing electricity supplies for 340,000 people).

By late 2007 DFID will have improved access to water for one million people. We have replaced 200 kilometres of water mains, repaired over 5,000 leaks, cleared out 7,000 septic tanks and cleared over 40 kilometres of drains. We have refurbished a reverse osmosis unit to supply potable water to about 500,000 people, improved water supply to 60,000 people in Al Amtahiyah, constructed a water training centre in Basra to increase the skills of Iraqi engineers in water treatment and leakage repair, and provided technical advice for a major sewage installation in Al Amarah, providing up to half the city's population with access to a piped system and replacing open sewage channels.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of UK aid to Pakistan on levels of *(a)* anti-British extremism, *(b)* violations of religious freedom and *(c)* freedom of speech in Pakistan. [145583]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is in the process of preparing a new Country Assistance Plan for Pakistan for 2008 to 2012. As part of that preparation, we have commissioned an independent evaluation of DFID's impact on the three strategic outcome areas of the 2005 Country Assistance Plan: (1) increased incomes for the poor; (2) improved delivery of education, health and population services to the poor; and (3) greater accountability of the state to its citizens. We aim to publish this evaluation by the summer.

We have also just completed consultations within Pakistan, and with the Pakistan Diaspora, on what our future priorities should be. The overwhelming sense from these consultations was that DFID's programme in Pakistan has been making an impact, and that we should look to increase our efforts in support of Pakistan's poverty reduction strategies and plans.

DFID's work, especially in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake, has won the UK many friends in Pakistan and has contributed to strengthening the ties between our two countries. This was illustrated in November last year when my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister signed a 10 year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) with Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz. The DPA is based on a shared commitment to pursuing poverty reduction objectives, respecting the human rights obligations entered into, and improving financial management and accountability in Pakistan.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department gave to Pakistan in each of the last five years; and what planned expenditure is for the next three years. [145606]

Mr. Thomas: The total DFID bilateral expenditure to Pakistan in each of the last five financial years is set out in table 1 following, alongside projections for 2007-08.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure to Pakistan

	Expenditure (£000)
2002-03	38,314
2003-04	66,240
2004-05	31,377
2005-06	97,413
2006-07	[1]101,118
2007-08	[2]101,000

[1] Provisional.
[2] Projection.

Projections beyond 2007-08 will not be available until the Comprehensive Spending Review is concluded later this year.

UK funding to multilateral institutions cannot be directly attributed to any country; however table 2 contains estimates of the UK's imputed shares of multilateral aid to Pakistan. These estimates are based on the UK's funding of each multilateral institution and each multilateral's distribution of aid to Pakistan. They are only available on a calendar year basis.

Table 2: imputed UK share of multilateral aid to Pakistan for 2001-05

	Imputed aid (£000)
2002	28,343
2003	34,391
2004	27,729
2005	43,968

Note:
The list of multilateral organisations used in the production of these data is not exhaustive; the multilaterals analysed are those that provide the Development Assistance Committee with detailed information about their distribution of funds to Pakistan and to whom DFID provided funds over the period.

Data for 2006 are not yet available.

Palestinians: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will support the deployment of a human rights monitoring mechanism across Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [145385]

Hilary Benn: Any third party, such as a human rights observation force, would only be able to achieve its goals with the full support of the Government of Israel (GoI) and the Palestinian Authority. Such support is unlikely in the current climate.

Thailand: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK-funded support has been made available to aid groups in Thailand assisting those displaced from their homes in Burma in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [145217]

Mr. Thomas: Of those aid groups based in Thailand, DFID provides £1.8 million (over three years—2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08) to the Thailand-Burma Border Consortium for the provision of food, shelter, cooking fuel and non-food items for the 166,000 refugees in the nine camps on the Thai-Burma border, and for their support to internally displaced people, particularly those in hiding in areas of ongoing conflict. We provide an approximately equivalent amount of funding to the Thailand-Burma Border Consortium's refugee work through our contributions to aid provided by the European Union.

DFID acknowledges the importance and value of cross-border aid, especially in supporting many of the 100,000 internally displaced people living in conflict areas in eastern Burma. We also acknowledge the value and importance of work by community based groups inside the country, who are able to reach many of the 400,000 internally displaced people living in Government controlled areas, mixed administration areas (where both ethnic armed groups and the Burmese army are present) and cease-fire areas. We believe strongly that the two mechanisms should be seen as complementary to each other—not as competitors.

We have removed the restriction on the use of UK funds provided to Thailand-based non-Governmental organisations for cross-border assistance. But while several Governments already fund cross-border work, the UK is the only bilateral donor currently supporting community-based groups reaching internally displaced people from inside Burma. Our judgment is that the best use for our additional money is to support community based organisations working inside Burma, which is why we also provide assistance to internally displaced people through community-based groups inside Burma (£400,000 in 2007-08) to provide emergency relief, health and education programmes in eastern Burma.

UN

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the creation of One UN teams in the developing world. [144725]

Mr. Thomas: In 2006, the UN Secretary-General set up a High Level Panel (HLP) on UN System-wide Coherence. The Panel, with the Chancellor's participation, reported in November 2006 with recommendations to improve the UN's position and response to new global development challenges, and to achieve greater efficiency and co-ordination. This included the establishment of 'One UN' pilots at country level. The pilots are testing an approach based on one integrated UN programme with one consolidated budget, managed by one UN leader (the Resident Co-ordinator), where appropriate housed in one UN location. The aim is to create a genuinely united nations at country level, operating in partnership with, and responding directly to the needs of developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

'One UN' is currently being piloted in eight countries: Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Pakistan, Vietnam (all priorities for the UK), Cape Verde, Uruguay and Albania. The HLP recommended that the programme expand to up to 40 countries by 2010. DFID is working closely with country offices, governments, and the UN system to ensure that 'One UN' is successful. Progress is already being made in aligning the UN with national priorities, in greater efficiency and in taking the necessary change management steps. DFID is working closely

with partners and the UN system to ensure robust monitoring and evaluation processes are in place, so that lessons learned and best practice are fully utilised in future 'One UN' countries.

Zimbabwe: Health Services

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to facilitate the provision of healthcare free at the point of access in *(a)* Zimbabwe and *(b)* Rwanda. [145590]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to helping countries that want to remove charges at the point of delivery. DFID made a commitment in the recent White Paper to help partner governments abolish user fees for basic health services and help them tackle other barriers to access, including discrimination against women.

In Rwanda, the Government and major aid donors are conscious that financial barriers are inhibiting poor people from accessing health services. DFID is therefore working closely with the Government to investigate how DFID aid and technical assistance can best be provided to reduce the level of out-of-pocket expenditures on health services. In particular, DFID is looking at various options to specifically address the needs of the very poor that are most adversely affected by present patient charges.

In Zimbabwe, access to health services is rapidly decreasing as the economy contracts, inflation surpasses 4500 per cent. government capacity to maintain services diminishes and travel for most people becomes harder. User fees are currently charged for most health services other than preventive care to children under five and HIV treatment services. Where commodities have been donated, the Ministry of Health policy is that these should not be sold through fees but passed on for free. We are all aware of the situation in Zimbabwe which prevents a development partnership between DFID and the Zimbabwean government. However, DFID engages whenever the opportunity arises to discuss the adverse effects of user fees. DFID provides technical assistance and financial support for research in order to strengthen the evidence base and support the policy process.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provided to health systems in *(a)* Zimbabwe and *(b)* Rwanda in each of the last five years. [145650]

Hilary Benn: DFID suspended all development assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe in 2002.

Since then, DFID Zimbabwe has provided over £63 million through NGOs to ensure the poorest people continue to access essential health services. Support has been provided for reduction in preventable deaths (vaccination programmes, malaria prevention); mother and child services (including antenatal care, maternity services, prevention of mother to child transmission and emergency obstetric care); sexual and reproductive health (including family planning services, treatment for STIs); and HIV/AIDS (including prevention and treatment, behaviour change and care for orphans).

The total assistance in each of the past five years was:

	£ million
2002-03	5.5
2003-04	10.4
2004-05	14.6
2005-06	12.9
2006-07	19.6

In Rwanda the majority of DFID current spending is through budget support. DFID bilateral expenditure on health in Rwanda from 2002-03 to 2006-07 was:

	£ million
2002-03	2.3
2003-04	2.0
2004-05	4.0
2005-06	7.1
2006-07	[1]1.6

[1] Provisional

This includes a notional proportion of DFID's general budget support.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial aid and assistance Zimbabwe received from his Department in 2005-06. [145545]

Hilary Benn: DFID bilateral aid to Zimbabwe in the fiscal year 2005-06 was £34.1 million of which £1.6 million was in the form of financial aid. The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors of humanitarian support to Zimbabwe, supporting over 1.5 million of the poorest people. Our funding prioritises HIV/AIDS, food insecurity and supporting orphans and vulnerable children. Our current programmes will help ensure that an additional 30,000 people receive anti-retroviral treatment, will provide health care for around 350,000 children, promote food security in both urban and rural areas and assist extremely vulnerable displaced people. The UK does not give direct funding to the Government of Zimbabwe. All DFID's bilateral funding is channelled through NGOs and UN agencies, much of it programmed jointly with other donors.

The UK contributions to multilateral aid to Zimbabwe (United Nations, European Commission, World Bank and others) totalled £5.6 million in 2004 which is the last year for which data are available.

The full breakdown of bilateral aid is published in Table 12.1 of Statistics on International Development 2001-02 to 2005-06, a copy of which is available in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

London Olympics

9. **Meg Hillier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent meetings she has had on the Olympics legacy in east London. [144652]

Tessa Jowell: I have had many such meetings, including with the mayors or leaders of the five host boroughs last Tuesday, and Ken Livingstone last Thursday. One of the main legacies of the 2012 Games

will be to transform the heart of East London with new homes, new public transport, new employment and business opportunities and new spaces to work, live and play in.

11. **Mr. Blizzard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has made an estimate of the amount of revenue that the new logo will attract for the hosting of the Olympic Games in 2012. [144654]

Mr. Caborn: The new London 2012 brand, of which the logo is one element, will help the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to raise the £2 billion they need to host and stage the games. Sponsors will buy rights to the brand and it will underpin LOCOG's merchandising strategy. LOCOG believe that the brand will make an effective and decisive contribution to the full £2 billion budget.

13. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made to ensure that the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of London benefit from the economic legacy of the 2012 London Olympics. [144656]

Tessa Jowell: A significant amount of activity is already under way to help local people secure jobs, to help local businesses to compete successfully for Olympic-related contracts and to regenerate East London—one of the most deprived parts of the capital. Jobcentre Plus has already placed 110 local people into jobs on the Olympic site; 3,000 businesses have already registered for information about Olympic-related contract opportunities; and 11 pre-volunteer programme pilots are already giving 450 Londoners the opportunity to develop skills through volunteering. These objectives were central to our bid for the games and are ones which we are wholly committed to achieving.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will investigate the capacity constraints and legacy effects of holding the equestrian events for the 2012 Olympics in Greenwich park. [144661]

Mr. Caborn: The London Organising Committee has appointed a course designer, and work is under way to assess the overlay plan for the park, including looking at optimisation of space. The venue was endorsed by the International Federation, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) which also had a delegation visit the site earlier this year.

Work is ongoing with all stakeholders to ensure the Olympic events do not have a detrimental effect on this unique world heritage site, and that opportunities are maximised to showcase the site and the sport of equestrianism to the world.

BBC Charter

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with the BBC on its charter, with particular reference to regional news coverage. [144653]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with the BBC about its charter.

The BBC agreement places requirements on the BBC relating to the amount of time given to regional news coverage and its scheduling. The BBC Trust is responsible for ensuring these requirements are met.

Channel 4

12. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to review the financial arrangements for Channel 4 television. [144655]

Mr. Woodward: Following Ofcom's report on the funding of Channel 4 the Government have announced their intention to use part of the licence fee to fund some of Channel 4's digital switchover costs and to bring forward our review of public service broadcasting funding.

Tote Privatisation

14. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress on selling the Tote. [144657]

Mr. Caborn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace).

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the future of the Tote. [144658]

Mr. Caborn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace).

Tourism

15. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to strengthen Government support for seaside and coastal tourism. [144659]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS continues to provide VisitBritain with funding of around £50 million a year to promote Britain overseas and England to the domestic market. The attractions of the coast have been prominent, for example, in its recent "Family Fun" and "English Rose" campaigns.

Councils and businesses on the coast are also responsible for the product they offer, and they have taken great strides to change their image. It is important that seaside resorts continue to use the national quality schemes for accommodation and attractions developed by VisitBritain.

Museums and Galleries: Visitor Numbers

18. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what additional measures she has considered to encourage more visitors to the national museums and galleries; and if she will make a statement. [144663]

Mr. Lammy: Free admission has ensured that more people than ever have access to the national collections. The number of visits to national museums and galleries has risen from 24 million in 1997-98 to 39 million last year.

What we need to do now, and have already been encouraging through our performance targets, is to increase participation from under-represented groups.

Regional Casinos: Energy Efficiency

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to ensure that new regional casinos make use of energy efficient light bulbs. [144660]

Mr. Caborn: Any new casino development will be required to comply with relevant planning and building requirements, including relevant requirements designed to protect the environment and promote energy saving.

Arts: National Lottery

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery arts funding *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England received per capita in each of the last five years. [145398]

Mr. Caborn: The series of tables show the per capita figures for the last five financial years for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England where the good cause is recorded as Arts. The search is location specific. That is the tables include only grants that are specific to location in the region and exclude grants that might have gone to addresses in the region, but are not otherwise related to it.

The value of grants is taken from the Lottery grants database which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors. The population figures used are from the mid 2005 estimates of the Office for National Statistics.

Northern Ireland (population 1,724,400)

Year (financial)	*Value of grants (£)*	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest pence*
2006-07	6,356,403.00	3.69
2005-06	7,705,824.00	4.47
2004-05	13,084,472.00	7.59
2003-04	9,227,349.00	5.35
2002-03	8,179,712.00	4.75

Scotland (population 5,094,800)

Year (financial)	*Value of grants (£)*	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest pence*
2006-07	7,932,977.00	1.56
2005-06	3,292,654.00	0.65
2004-05	14,325,425.00	2.81
2003-04	14,175,818.00	2.78
2002-03	22,557,933.00	4.43

Wales (population 2,958,600)

Year (financial)	*Value of grants (£)*	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest pence*
2006-07	9,152,897.00	3.09
2005-06	9,417,341.00	3.18
2004-05	13,030,050.00	4.40
2003-04	10,610,305.00	3.59
2002-03	8,054,723.00	2.72

England (population 50,431,700)

Year (financial)	*Value of grants (£)*	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest pence*
2006-07	19,584,802.00	0.39
2005-06	3,176,531.00	0.06
2004-05	25,270,229	0.50
2003-04	111,049,139.00	2.20
2002-03	70,285,451.00	1.39

The Department's Lottery grant database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

Arts: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1038W, on the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich, East constituency, what recent discussions the Minister for Culture has held on the Public Arts Centre; and if she will make a statement. [145464]

Mr. Lammy: I have not had any recent discussions on the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich, East constituency.

British Film Institute

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the future of the British Film Institute. [145418]

Mr. Woodward: The British Film Institute (BFI) play a vital role to the Film industry through their care for the BFI National Archive and Collections and their encouragement of knowledge and participation in film in the UK. DCMS works closely with the BFI and UK Film Council to ensure this work can be continued and developed in the future.

British Film Institute: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was provided to the British Film Institute in each of the last 10 years; and what the projected funding allocation is for 2007-08. [145427]

Mr. Woodward: Funding from Government for the British Film Institute, directed through the UK Film Council since its establishment in 2000, is in the following table.

Financial year	*Core funding (£ million)*	*Additional grant*	*Total grant (£ million)*
1998-99	16	0	16
1999-2000	16	0	16
2000-01	16	£450,000 advance against 2001-02	16.45

Financial year	Core funding (£ million)	Additional grant	Total grant (£ million)
2001-02	14.5	£0.45 million advanced in 2000-01	[1]14.05
2002-03	14.5	0	14.5
2003-04	14.5	One-off award of £200,000 to fund BFI's strategic review	14.7
2004-05	16	£0.8 million one-off award for modernisation	16.8
2005-06	16	£2 million one-off capital award for the Southbank and £1 million one-off award for modernisation	19
2006-07	16	£2.5 million one-off capital award for the Southbank	18.5
2007-08	16	0	16

[1] Reduction due to the transfer of functions to the UK Film Council and the advance of grant in 2000-01

British Grand Prix

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held on the future of Formula One motor racing at the Silverstone circuit in Northamptonshire, with particular reference to its future after 2009; what steps she is taking to support the British motor racing industry; and if she will make a statement. [145428]

Mr. Caborn: The Government maintains its desire for a British Grand Prix at Silverstone but our role remains one of dialogue and facilitation.

I have attended a number of meetings to discuss the future of Formula One Grand Prix racing at Silverstone. The most recent meeting was on 20 March with the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) to discuss their plans for redevelopment of the Silverstone circuit and discussions are ongoing.

The Government support British Motorsport through Motorsport Development UK (MDUK) who have invested over £12 million to help maintain and strengthen the UK's dominant position in world Motorsport.

Ceramics

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to reclassify the ceramics industry as a creative industry; and if she will make a statement. [145352]

Mr. Woodward: The creative industries, as defined in the 1998 and 2001 Mapping Documents, are those which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent. This definition includes design and crafts, which cuts across many sectors, including ceramics, and the creative elements of them. The Creative Economy Programme is considering the broad framework of support for the creative industries and through that work there is a broad recognition that creativity itself is a vital component of sectors such as ceramics, where I am aware that there are many examples of companies achieving renewed success through their innovation and willingness to reinvent themselves.

Cricket: Entry Clearances

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advice she gave to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the issuing of a visa to the Chairman of the Zimbabwean Cricket Union Peter Chingoka to attend the International Cricket Council conference at Lords between 24 and 29 June. [145787]

Mr. Caborn: The Government do not comment on individual visa application cases.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials had with the England and Wales Cricket Board on the granting of a visa to Peter Chingoka to attend the International Cricket Council conference at Lords between 25 June and 29 June. [145792]

Mr. Caborn: My officials and I have discussed the International Cricket Conference at Lords in June with the England and Wales Cricket Board. However, the Government do not comment on individual visa applications cases.

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds were allocated to the protection of Iraq's heritage in each of the last four years. [143004]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* My Department supports international activity by bodies such as the National Museums and Galleries, the British Library and English Heritage through their annual grant in aid. Specific sums are not ring-fenced on a country by country basis, as operational decisions on priorities are best taken by the professionals in each institution in the light of changing circumstances.

In the case of Iraq, I would highlight the work of the British Museum, which has:

provided expertise and training on conservation and site management;

sent two archaeologists to Iraq who were instrumental in co-ordinating the quick supply of a wide range of desperately needed materials and equipment to the Baghdad Museum; and

arranged and managed (with additional funding of £15,000 from the DCMS) a project that allowed three interns coming from the Iraqi Ministry of Culture to learn the skills necessary for the future management of the Babylon archaeological site.

In addition to the work of the British Museum, the British Library has also provided expertise and support. It was able to work with the Iraq National Library and Archive, supplying surrogate material to replace that which was lost during the conflict.

Culture: Anniversaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria her Department applies before deciding whether or not to celebrate a cultural anniversary. [144020]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* None. There are a plethora of cultural anniversaries every year, marking a broad spectrum of people, events and occasions. My Department does not take unilateral decisions on whether or not to celebrate any of them.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144944]

Mr. Lammy: Departmental expenditure for overseas travel and subsistence by officials is shown in the table.

Regarding Ministers' visits overseas, since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Financial year	*Overseas travel and subsistence costs by officials (£)*
2006-07[1]	291,427.90
2005-06	287,546.56
2004-05	279,710.59

[1] Subject to finalisation of the annual resource accounts.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by staff in her Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145288]

Mr. Lammy: The Department spent the following amounts on *(a)* credit cards, *(b)* procurement cards and *(c)* fuel cards in the last three financial years:

£

	(a) Credit cards	*(b) Procurement cards*	*(c) Fuel cards*
2004-05	0	108,426	0
2005-06	0	174,642	0
2006-07	0	398,718	0

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144943]

Mr. Lammy: The Department did not purchase any energy saving light bulbs during these periods.

We are currently refurbishing our offices at 2-4 Cockspur Street and are installing T16 energy efficient light bulbs.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in her Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144477]

Mr. Lammy: There are three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed by DCMS Ministers relating to sport:

(i) UK-Saudi Arabia, December 1987;

(ii) UK-South Africa, February 2005;

(iii) UK-Brazil, September 2006.

These MoUs have been put into operation by UK Sport (i and ii) and the British Council (iii).

There is one MoU between the UK and Italy on Digital Television, signed by the Secretary of State in 2004. An exchange of information between the UK and Italy is planned; the form of this is being discussed.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in her Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last year; and if she will make a statement on her Department's policy on home working. [143888]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS has 16 members of staff currently working from home on a regular basis. In DCMS there is an arrangement where staff work part of their hours from home. At present we are only able to support a limited number of formal home-working arrangements. However, we also support and encourage the more informal home-working arrangements in which staff may have agreed to work from home on an occasional ad-hoc basis.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144617]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Department

(i) The DCMS spent £163,200 on the Licensing Act campaign in 2005. The external agency involved was COI.

(ii) There was a smaller amount of advertising and marketing activity around the BBC Charter Review.

Campaign	*Cost (£)*	*Agency*
Licensing Act Campaign (2005-06)	163,200	COI
BBC Charter (2004-05)	37,085	COI
BBC Charter (2003-04)	20,987	COI

(b) Agencies

The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145943]

Mr. Lammy: My Department does not currently have a Concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive but will work with colleagues in the Devolved Administration in Northern Ireland to develop one. A copy will be laid in the House when this has been done.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of staff in her Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145676]

Mr. Lammy: The information is shown in the following table.

As at 1 April:	*Percentage of staff over 60 years of age*
2005	1.7
2006	1.9
2007	2

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145710]

Mr. Lammy: In the last three years the Department recruited one person over the age of 55 which represented 7 per cent. of those recruited in that year. No staff were recruited over the age of 60.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public consultations her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145271]

Mr. Lammy: Over the 12 months to end May 2007, my Department launched 36 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All consultations are available on the departmental website:

www.culture.gov.uk <http://www.culture.gov.uk>

Departments: Reviews

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 738-39W, on art works, which recommendations from the Goodison report have been addressed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each other Department; and what steps have been taken in respect of each recommendation that has been addressed. [143556]

Mr. Lammy: I am placing in the House Libraries a table setting out the actions taken by DCMS and others to address the recommendations of Sir Nicholas Goodison's report.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff surveys her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145255]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS is in the process of undertaking a staff opinion survey. They take place biennially and the last one was in 2005. The cost of this year's survey is £21,540.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139912]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the Department's expenditure on travel agencies' fees since July 2000. Data prior to July 2000 are no longer available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The increase since 2002 reflects reductions in the commission the airline industry paid to travel agents for booking flights, and the consequent reduction in the levels of rebates travel agents pass on to clients. Travel agents' fees now reflect the full cost of the travel management contract.

The Department has one Executive agency, the Royal Parks, which has not incurred any expenditure on travel agencies' fees.

Financial year	*DCMS (£)*
2006-07[1]	23,821.00
2005-06	26,730.00
2004-05	18,720.00
2003-04	14,894.48
2002-03 (July 2002-March 2003)	11,751.61
July 2000-June 2002	5,295.49

[1] Subject to the finalisation of the resource accounts.

English Sports Council: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was provided to Sports England West Midlands in each of the last five years; and what the projected funding allocation is for the 2008-09 financial year. [145419]

Mr. Caborn: The following table provides details of funding provided to Sport England West Midlands in each of the last five years;

Sport England West Midlands	Exchequer	£ Lottery
2003-04	351,965	500,000
2004-05	239,927	12,440,000
2005-06	1,474,522	5,899,310
2006-07	1,360,037	6,253,750
2007-08	1,429,571	13,107,637
Total	4,856,022	38,200,697

The projected funding for 2008-09 financial year will not be known until the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

International Council on Monuments and Sites

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the UK members of the International Council on Monuments and Sites; and by whom each was *(a)* nominated and *(b)* appointed. [145587]

Mr. Lammy: Membership of ICOMOS-UK is open to anyone involved or interested in cultural heritage conservation. All members of ICOMOS-UK are automatically members of ICOMOS.

ICOMOS is an international, non-governmental membership organisation, which is self-governing and selects members for its own committees. There are no UK members on the Executive Committee of ICOMOS.

International Council on Monuments and Sites: Finance

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the grants to the International Council on Monuments and Sites in each of the last five years. [145585]

Mr. Lammy: The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) does not receive grants through my Department. However, grants have been provided to its UK National Committee, ICOMOS-UK:

	£
2002-03	38,000
2003-04	[1]45,000

[1] Of which £4,000 was provided by Historic Scotland

From 2004-05 ICOMOS-UK received grants through English Heritage:

	£
2004-05	41,000
2005-06	41,000
2006-07	41,000

Discussions concerning the grant for 2007-08 are under way. Historic Scotland and CADW have independent negotiations with ICOMOS-UK.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons annual grants are made to the International Council on Monuments and Sites. [145586]

Mr. Lammy: The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) does not receive grants through my Department. However, grants to its UK National Committee—ICOMOS-UK, are made by English Heritage.

This funding supports ICOMOS-UK's World Heritage work in England, which includes: training and capacity building, communications/awareness raising; provision of advice on World Heritage nominations and management plans and on periodic reporting; advice on the implications of development proposals in World Heritage sites in England. Funding also supports the strengthening of ICOMOS-UK's role on the international agenda, in particular through promoting best practice from the UK on World Heritage.

Historic Scotland and CADW have independent negotiations with ICOMOS-UK for their services.

National Lottery: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the impact of additional Lottery funding for the London Olympics on future Lottery funding in Scotland. [144662]

Mr. Woodward: Of the additional £675 million announced on 15 March, the Scottish Arts Council will contribute £7 million; Sport Scotland £7.3 million; and Scottish Screen £1 million.

Of the relevant UK-wide distributing bodies, the Heritage Lottery Fund will make a contribution towards the additional £675 million of £90.2 million; and the Big Lottery Fund will make a contribution of £425 million.

It is for these distributors to determine the proportion of their funding which goes to Scotland. No money will be taken before 2009, grants already made need not be affected and we have agreed with the Big Lottery Fund that resources for the voluntary and community sector will be protected.

National Lottery: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was distributed to sports clubs *(a)* to pay Lottery awards and *(b)* to meet administrative costs by each of the five sports Lottery distributors in 2006-07. [145082]

Mr. Caborn: The total funds drawn-down by the five sports Lottery distributors in 2006-07 were, subject to audit, as follows:

	£ million
Sport England	121.400
Sports Council Northern Ireland	7.976
sportscotland	21.898
UK Sport	46.852
Sports Council for Wales	10.649

Of the funds drawn-down by the distributors, the following amounts were spent on meeting Lottery administration costs:

	£ million
Sport England	19.929
Sports Council Northern Ireland	0.663
sportscotland	3.502
UK Sport	1.842
Sports Council for Wales	1.502

It should be noted however that there is no common definition of Lottery administration costs. As such the figures provided cannot be directly compared.

Drawdown figures (rounded)—*Source:* Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Administration cost figures—*Source:* Sports Councils

Olympic Delivery Authority: Transport

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the cost of delivering the transport strategy of the Olympic Delivery Authority; in what years it will be incurred; and what estimate she has made of the expenditure in each *(a)* region and *(b)* county. [145037]

Mr. Caborn: The estimate of the Olympic Delivery Authority's total costs for delivering of the games transport strategy is in the region of £1 billion.

The majority of the contracts needed to deliver this strategy have yet to be procured and information relating to their potential value is commercially sensitive. Releasing detailed regional information at this stage may prejudice the ability of the Olympic Delivery Authority to achieve value for money.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) on what date the updated figures on the cost of the Olympics provided to her Department by PricewaterhouseCoopers in September 2004 were shown to *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers at HM Treasury; [141905]

(2) what documents PricewaterhouseCoopers provided to her Department in September 2004 when they gave an update on the cost of the 2012 Olympics. [141906]

Tessa Jowell: PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) provided a report to my Department entitled Olympic and Lower Lea Valley Costing Validation Review in July 2004. Copies of this report have been placed in the Libraries of the House. PWC did not provide an update on these figures in September 2004. Rather, my officials continued to update the July figures provided by PWC, in light of emerging information. The final figures were agreed with HM Treasury prior to the submission of the Candidate File.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1177W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, for what reasons the transport projects were not transferred to Transport for London. [141930]

Tessa Jowell: The three transport projects concern changes to mainline rail infrastructure as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games delivery programme. They do not affect the modes for which Transport for London has responsibility.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the value of land in the Olympic Park at today's market value. [142163]

Tessa Jowell: The London Development Agency (LDA) is responsible for making estimates of land values for the purposes of commercial negotiations, but these are commercially sensitive and necessarily confidential.

The LDA is also currently leading detailed work to make a thorough assessment of the potential end values of land in the Olympic Park and we await the outcome of that work.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to ensure that all official merchandise, equipment and clothing produced for the London 2012 Olympic Games are produced in facilities where international labour standards are respected, including the International Labour Organisation Core Conventions, and the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if she will make a statement. [143948]

Tessa Jowell: We will work with our partners and other Government Departments to explore how the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games can incorporate ethical and fair trade, and in turn bring positive impacts to poor people in developing countries.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), which will deliver the games—and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)—responsible for building the venues—are committed to promoting ethical principles consistent with the Olympic Charter.

LOCOG requires all its suppliers to comply with the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code, and is working with the Playfair Alliance and the ETI to develop a practical approach to raising the bar. The ETI Base Code is derived from the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation.

LOCOG has recently appointed its Head of Procurement who is developing the policies that will inform procurement when it comes on line mainly in 2009. In addition, LOCOG and the ODA have regular meetings with representatives of the Playfair Alliance and the ETI to inform relevant procurement policies.

The ODA seeks to work with suppliers who have a good track record in human rights and using goods and materials produced ethically. This includes seeking suppliers who operate within the laws of their country, who do not have discriminatory practices and who do not use child or bonded labour.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects the winners of utility contracts for the Olympic Games to be announced. [144415]

Mr. Caborn: There will be several utilities contracts and current expectations are that the different contracts will be let from early summer 2007 through to summer 2008.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will announce details of contracts it has awarded once the contractual negotiations have concluded, as in the case of the award of the Primary Substation contract announced on 7 June 2007.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many different companies have applied for each Olympic Games utility contract. [144416]

Mr. Caborn: The utilities contracts for Olympic Park are being procured under a commercially confidential process by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Releasing detailed information at this stage may prejudice the ability of the ODA to achieve value for money.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place for ensuring the fairness of the award of the utilities contracts for the Olympics. [144417]

Mr. Caborn: The utilities contracts for the Olympic Park are being procured in accordance with the Olympic Delivery Authority procurement policy, which in turn is compliant with UK and European public procurement legislation, intended to ensure fairness in the competitive processes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution to the regeneration budget she expects to come from sponsorship deals for the Olympic Games. [144418]

Mr. Caborn: All sponsorship activity for the London 2012 Games is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). It is a self-financing body that has a budget of around £2 billion for hosting and staging the London 2012 Games. Around a third of the LOCOG budget will come from its sponsors and will contribute to delivery of the Games, but regeneration costs will not be met from LOCOG's sponsorship programme. The delivery of the new venues and infrastructure needed to enable regeneration is included in the Olympic Delivery Authority's budget.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much she expects to be raised through sponsorship for the Olympic Games. [144419]

Mr. Caborn: This is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). To host and stage the London 2012 Games, LOCOG has a budget of around £2 billion, almost all of which has to be raised from the private sector. Around a third of this will be through sponsorship activity. Sponsors are, therefore, a vital part of delivering a successful Games. In addition, LOCOG will also receive a proportion of revenue from the sponsors in the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) The Olympic Partner Programme (TOP), within the overall contribution they will receive from the IOC towards the London 2012 Games.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects all main sponsors for the Olympic Games to be announced. [144420]

Mr. Caborn: This is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). Their sponsorship programme is based on a three-tier structure and their first priority is to sign the main partners in Tier One. LOCOG announced their first Tier One sponsor, Lloyds TSB, in the banking and insurance sector in March 2007. The other active sectors included in Tier One are utilities, telecommunications, airlines, automotive, sportswear and oil and gas categories. I understand that they expect to make a number of further announcements in this financial year, although no specific dates have yet been agreed. Their Tier Two and Tier Three programmes will come on line in due course. The LOCOG sponsorship programme is in addition to the sponsors included in the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) The Olympic Partner Programme (TOP).

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of construction workers on the Olympic site who will receive healthcare benefits. [144899]

Mr. Caborn: The estimated number of construction workers on the Olympic Park site (i.e. excluding the village and retail development) is expected to peak at around 9,000 in 2010. It is assumed all will be entitled to receive NHS healthcare benefits, and it is likely that many will be provided with additional healthcare benefits by their employer. However, it is not possible to estimate what additional benefits may be provided since the majority of construction contracts are yet to be let.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library copies of *(a)* submissions made by bodies for which she is responsible to the IOC Co-ordinating Commission and *(b)* the IOC Co-ordinating Commission's final report. [145081]

Tessa Jowell: The visit of the IOC Co-ordination Commission was organised by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). It is a regular private business meeting between those two organisations to discuss progress. The bulk of the information was provided by oral evidence and papers were tabled by LOCOG. Those papers submitted by LOCOG to the IOC Co-ordination Commission were provided in confidence.

My Department submitted the Legacy Promises document to the IOC Co-ordination Commission. Copies of this document are already in the Library of both Houses. The IOC Co-ordination Commission does not produce a formal report as such. Rather the Chairman of the Commission writes a private letter to the Chairman of the Organising Committee. However, the Commission issued a press release and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 639W, on the London Olympics, whether the breakdown of planned expenditure provided corresponds to the budget headings of the revised budget provided to the IOC Co-ordinating Commission. [145084]

Tessa Jowell: The visit of the IOC Co-ordination Commission was organised by the London Organising Committee of the Paralympic Games and Olympic Games (LOCOG). The bulk of the information, including the revised budget was provided in a series of presentations to the IOC.

The presentation to the IOC on Olympic finances encompassed all aspects of the revised budget provision as set out in my answer of 18 April.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of tourists visiting *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England during the 2012 Olympics. [145399]

Mr. Woodward: Estimates of the number of tourists by country are not available. Preliminary estimates suggested that about 500,000 additional inbound visitors will come to London during the games. However, VisitBritain and Visit London will be shortly commissioning some research to undertake more in-depth analysis.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to tackle the production and sale of counterfeit Olympic products before the 2012 Olympics. [145421]

Mr. Caborn: The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 and the Olympic Symbol etc. (Protection) Act 1995 contain provisions that safeguard the intellectual property rights of the London 2012 Games. This includes giving customs and trading standards officers powers to detain and seize goods which infringe the rights of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the British Olympic Association by using the Olympic and Paralympic terminology, symbols or mottos without their consent.

LOCOG has begun planning their strategy to combat unofficial merchandise and counterfeit goods and are in the process of identifying a prevention and enforcement policy for the next five years. They have also set up an Anti-Counterfeiting Working Group whose aim is to collaborate and share information and best practice, and to develop a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach to the issue. The Working Group includes representatives from HM Revenue and Customs, Trading Standards, Metropolitan Police, Olympic Security Directorate, and the Intellectual Property Office.

The provisions contained in the Olympic-specific legislation are in addition to the general intellectual property rights which LOCOG will also rely on to protect the brands related to London 2012, the Olympic movement and Paralympic movement.

Public Houses: Entertainments

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the Licensing Act 2003 on live entertainment in public houses, with particular reference to the removal of the two in a bar exemption. [144691]

Mr. Woodward: Current assessments are largely anecdotal and suggest a broadly neutral impact in terms of live music performances in pubs.

A survey of smaller venues we carried out in 2006 showed that nearly three-quarters of the 7 per cent. of venues that had ever put on music using the two in a bar exemption now have a licence for live music. Those who did not apply stated that they chose not to because their premises were either unsuitable, or they would not use it. This research is available in the Libraries of the House and on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/research_by_dcms/live_music_exec_summary.htm

The Live Music Forum has been monitoring the early effects of the Act on live music and is due to publish its assessment shortly. Our own planned research into the current provision of live music will look at premises including pubs, and will be completed by the end of the year.

Slavery: Anniversaries

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward plans for a national debate on proposals for a slavery memorial day. [145286]

Mr. Lammy: As the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed in the Adjournment Debate of 20 March on the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the Government will be initiating a public debate on a suitable date for a National Memorial Day every year and what this might entail. Further details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports clubs there were in England in each of the last 10 years. [145083]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS does not hold the information requested and there is no central register for Sports clubs in England.

Sports Grounds: Safety

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many responses were received to the Sports Ground Safety Legislation Consultation; and when she expects the results to be published. [145420]

Mr. Caborn: There were 41 responses to the consultation on the application of sports safety legislation. The responses are now being assessed and the results will be published later this year.

Sports: Hearing Impaired

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations her Department has received about continued funding for UK Deaf Sport; and if she will make a statement. [144974]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has received correspondence from Craig Crowley, chair of UK Deaf Sport, most recently in April 2007. Mr. Crowley expressed his disappointment at UK Sport's decision not to fund his organisation and asked that UK Sport review the decision.

Since we won the right to host the 2012 Olympic games, UK Sport has revised its strategy, and it is now primarily focused on supporting Olympic and Paralympic sports. However its World Class Pathway Programme does not discriminate against deaf athletes, and there are already some talented deaf athletes on the Pathway who will continue to receive the support they need to succeed at the very highest level.

In my reply to his letter, I suggested Mr. Crowley contact each of the Home Country Sports Councils to see if they would be prepared to fund UK Deaf Sport for the Deaflympics, and to obtain advice on alternative sources of potential funding.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding her Department *(a)* has given to UK Deaf Sport for the year 2007-08 and *(b)* gave for each of the last three years. [144975]

Mr. Caborn: Through UK Sport the Department has funded the following amounts for UK Deaf Sport:

	Funding for deaf sport (£)
(a) 2007-08	42,000
(b) 2006-07	42,000
2005-06	42,000
2004-05	42,000

Additionally, UK Deaf Sport was awarded £75,000 for the period from 1 December 2003 to 31 March 2005 to support the GB team at the 2005 Deaflympics.

Sports: Training

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many community sports coaches there are in *(a)* West Bromwich, East constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands region and *(c)* England; and what steps she is taking to increase the number of community sports coaches. [145394]

Mr. Caborn: We estimate that, by 22 June 2007, funding awards had been made to support the following Community Sports Coach (CSC) posts:

(a) We do not hold specific data on the number of Community Sports Coaches in the West Bromwich, East constituency but there are 168 funded posts in Birmingham and the Black Country, of which 147 are operational

(b) 419 funded posts in the West Midlands, of which 374 are operational

(c) 3,298 funded posts in England, of which 2,921 are operational

Future funding for Community Sports Coaches is subject to the ongoing comprehensive spending review.

Tourism: Fire Prevention

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on fire risk assessments in respect of tourist industry facilities; and if she will make a statement; [145896]

(2) what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Visit Britain has issued to accommodation providers in the tourism industry on fire risk assessments; and if she will make a statement. [145897]

Mr. Woodward: I have had no discussions on fire risk assessments in respect of tourist facilities with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, who has responsibility for fire safety policy. Guidance on compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which was developed following a public consultation, is set out in a series of guides dealing with a range of different types of premises, and are freely available on the Communities and Local Government website.

In addition VisitBritain offers such guidance to accommodation providers on its tourism trade website:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/QualityStandards/default.asp

This includes advice on compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the 2005 Regulations).

Further advice on the 2005 regulations and the assessment of fire safety risks is contained in VisitBritain's National Quality Assessment Scheme magazine, 'Quality Edge' (Winter 2007 edition, Page 18), which is also available on the internet at:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/QE4%20for%20website%20lo%20res_tcm12-31907.pdf

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many staff funded by the public purse in the Electoral Commission are classified as people without posts. [142194]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that there are no people within the organisation classified as people without posts.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the effectiveness of individual electoral registration in reducing the scope for fraud in Northern Ireland. [142192]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that since the introduction of individual registration in 2002 it has published reports on the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election, the 2005 combined UK parliamentary and local government elections and the 2007 Assembly election. It is the Commission's view that changes introduced by the Electoral Fraud Act 2002, including individual registration, have resulted in more accurate elector registers and reduced the scope for electoral malpractice.

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 749W, on elections: fraud, (1) how many cases of prosecutions for offences under the Representation of the People Acts came to the attention of the Electoral Commission and were recorded in each year since 2002; [142196]

(2) on what date the Electoral Commission started counting cases of prosecutions following its discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service. [143171]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has no formal or statutory role in relation to electoral malpractice, and there is no requirement for it to be informed of cases of prosecutions for offences under the Representation of the People Acts. The available information on the number of such cases brought to its attention in each year is as follows:

	Number
2003	1
2004	2
2005	1
2006	5
2007 (to date)	7

Elections: Legislation

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 749W, on elections: legislation, if he will place in the Library a list of the cases referred to in the Crown Prosecution Service's files on alleged offences under electoral legislation indicating *(a)* what each alleged offence was, *(b)* the location of the alleged offence and *(c)* what the final outcome was of each case. [142195]

Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it is not in a position to provide the information requested. I refer my hon. Friend to my answers to him on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1481W, and 16 May 2007 *Official Report*, columns 748-49W. The Commission remains in contact with the Crown Prosecution Service and intends to report further by the end of the year.

Elections: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the timetable is for periodic electoral reviews for each tier of local government in England. [141868]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the boundary committee for England completed a programme of periodic electoral reviews of all 386 local authorities in England in October 2004. The Commission has no plans to direct the committee to conduct a further programme. It can direct the boundary committee to undertake electoral reviews of individual authorities at any time.

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what advice the Electoral Commission has provided on combining the date of the 2009 European parliamentary elections and 2009 local elections; and if he will make a statement. [142189]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has provided no such advice. The Commission was, it also informs me, consulted by the Department for Communities and Local Government on a proposed Government amendment, now made, to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill to allow the date of ordinary local elections to be moved in years when there are European Parliamentary elections so that the two elections could be combined. The Commission has recommended that the provision should also include a time limit by which such powers must be exercised.

Elections: Scotland

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what criteria the Electoral Commission used to choose its independent observer to review the issues with the Scottish Parliamentary and local elections in 2007. [142191]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it sought to appoint a non-partisan person independent of the Commission from outside the United Kingdom with extensive electoral administration experience; good knowledge of electoral processes and practices; and some familiarity with the type of legal framework within which the United Kingdom electoral system operates.

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the terms of reference are of the

review into the Scottish 2007 elections; and what discretion the review team has to extend the terms. [142203]

Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it placed a paper in the Library setting out the full terms of reference and scope of the review on 21 May, and that the review team may examine any aspect of the elections that it thinks may be relevant. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lanark and Hamilton, East (Mr. Hood) on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1307W.

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the independent review into the Scottish 2007 elections is being administered on the Electoral Commission's premises. [142211]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has secured separate office accommodation for the review team in Edinburgh, from which it is expected to carry out the bulk of its work.

Electoral Commission: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the two new *(a)* corporate communication officers and *(b)* media relations officers planned to be employed by the Commission are in addition to its existing staff complement. [142190]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that both media relations officer positions and one corporate communication officer position are established posts. The other Corporate Communication Officer post is a six month fixed term appointment, additional to the existing staff complement.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: National Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the gross value added (GVA) of farming in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK was in each year since 1979; and what proportion of total UK GVA this represented. [144229]

Barry Gardiner: The information available is presented in the following table. Regional data are only available from 1995.

Note that the fall in Agricultural GVA in 2005 is partly a consequence of the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme which is not included in output (as it is decoupled from production) and therefore does not appear in gross value added.

Agricultural gross value added at basic prices

	UK		South West		Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	
	Value (£ million)	Percentage of total UK GVA	Value (£ million)	Percentage of total UK GVA	Value (£ million)	Percentage of total UK GVA
1979	3,971	2.2	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1980	4,404	2.1	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1981	4,925	2.1	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1982	5,620	2.2	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1983	5,485	2.0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1984	6,299	2.1	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1985	5,636	1.8	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1986	5,874	1.7	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1987	6,215	1.7	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1988	6,336	1.5	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1989	7,014	1.5	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1990	7,132	1.4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1991	7,282	1.4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1992	7,851	1.4	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1993	8,919	1.5	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1994	9,304	1.5	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
1995	10,206	1.6	1,211	0.2	197	0.03
1996	9,911	1.5	1,156	0.2	175	0.03
1997	8,242	1.1	1,023	0.1	153	0.02
1998	7,471	1.0	891	0.1	141	0.02
1999	7,208	0.9	852	0.1	138	0.02
2000	6,700	0.8	759	0.1	121	0.01
2001	6,783	0.8	800	0.1	124	0.01
2002	7,151	0.8	880	0.1	138	0.01
2003	7,881	0.8	963	0.1	162	0.02
2004	7,613	0.7	897	0.1	155	0.01
2005	5,325	0.5	706	0.1	129	0.01
2006	5,580	0.5	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Not available
[2] Not yet available

Agriculture: Organic Food

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects UK farmers to adopt the EU Organic Standards agreed on 12 June. [144015]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The EU Council Regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products will apply from 1 January 2009.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely financial correction to be imposed on the UK for non-respect of payment deadlines in 2005-06. [134685]

Barry Gardiner: The current estimate of the potential financial correction to be proposed in relation to the UK for failure to meet payment deadlines in respect of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for 2005 is around £70 million. The Government will continue to defend the UK's interests against such proposals with the aim of ensuring that any corrections are minimised to the fullest possible degree.

Algae

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of algal blooms on *(a)* mussel beds and *(b)* inshore fisheries in the area covered by the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. [142809]

Mr. Bradshaw: Neither DEFRA, nor the Welsh Assembly Government (which is responsible for water quality in Wales) have carried out such assessments. However, the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committees monitor and plot the locations of algal blooms in the sea.

The Food Standards Agency advises that some algae produce biotoxins, which may accumulate in shellfish and pose a risk to consumers. The UK has a statutory monitoring programme in place to check for the presence of biotoxins in live bivalve molluscs.

Under the programme, live bivalve molluscs, including mussels from the Morecambe Bay area, are routinely sampled and tested. Since June 2006, biotoxins have not been found to be a public health concern in the Morecambe Bay area.

The Environment Agency also monitors water quality in these areas, as required by the Shellfish Waters Directive.

Animal Welfare Act 2006: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales have been prosecuted under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in 2007. [145560]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Animal Welfare: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many notices have been served under Article 24 of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 by inspectors *(a)* at Dover, *(b)* at supervised loadings at departure premises and *(c)* at other places in respect of live calves destined for export; what remedial measures have been ordered by these notices; and if he will make a statement. [140096]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows:

1. The following information relates to the transport of live calves under 42 days of age intended for export.

2. For the period from 3 May 2006 to 30 April 2007, a total of 373 inspections have been carried out by animal health staff and 26 notices were served under Article 24 of the above order as detailed in the following table.

Location of inspection	*Number of inspections*	*Number of notices served*
Supervised loadings at point of departure	79	1
Staging posts/transfer points	5	0
Dover	289	25
Total	373	26

3. Reasons for the service of the 26 notices and details of the remedial action required to be taken by the transporter are as follows:

Notices served	*Reason for the notice*	*Remedial measures ordered by these notices*
3	Unable to provide adequate water and emergency feed	Take remedial action before continuing journey
5	Insufficient headroom and oversize pens	Take remedial action before continuing journey
1	Ventilation fans not working on lorry	Do not transport animals at all
4	Delayed sailing	Hold at lairage for 24 hour rest
4	Cancelled sailing	Return the animals by most direct route
4	No journey log/ exceeded journey times	Hold at lairage/return the animals by most direct route
5	A collapsed calf (all at Dover)	Do not transport animals at all (4 of the 5 calves were humanely destroyed)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Cotswolds

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the grant settlement received by the Cotswolds area of outstanding natural beauty from Natural England for 2007-08; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the grant on the establishment of the Cotswolds Conservation Boards. [144887]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA does not fund areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) directly. Most of the core (administrative) costs, and some of the project costs, involved are provided by Natural England. The relevant local authorities also make a significant contribution. It is for Natural England to determine funding levels for each AONB according to priorities and available resources.

Bees: Electromagnetic Fields

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the wider use of Wi-Fi technology on bee populations. [145061]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has not made any assessment of the effects of electronic telecommunications networks on bee populations as there is no evidence to suggest that there is any link between this technology and colony mortality. Should a link emerge, DEFRA will consider what action should be taken.

Birds: Imports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the rules on pet bird imports have been relaxed, with particular reference to *(a)* the removal of the need for individual licences and *(b)* compulsory quarantine periods. [144890]

Mr. Bradshaw: Before the recent change to rules on pet bird imports, there were more restrictions on movements of pet birds into the UK than on commercial birds of the same species. In respect of disease risk, there is no justification for imposing additional rules on individuals wishing to bring their pet birds into the UK. Pet birds are confined in a house or aviary, with minimal contact with wild birds or commercial poultry, and are closely observed, so disease is noticed promptly. Bird keepers are advised to be alert for signs of avian influenza or Newcastle disease at all times and to report any suspicion of disease to their nearest animal health office.

Following a public consultation, including an animal health risk assessment, moving pet birds to the UK from other European countries does not require licences or quarantine subject to conditions: there must be five or fewer pet birds, the import must not be intended for a commercial purpose and the birds cannot be poultry.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the regulatory framework is for those companies that offer carbon-offsetting services; and if he will make a statement. [145903]

Ian Pearson: The carbon market is a growing and diverse marketplace. In practice, there are two different markets currently in operation—the voluntary market and the regulated market. The regulated market covers emission reductions generated under the Kyoto mechanisms, such as Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) and EU Allowances (EUAs). The voluntary market covers all emission reductions generated outside of the regulated regime—collectively known as Verified Emission Reductions (VERs). There is currently no regulatory framework governing the voluntary market.

DEFRA has published a consultation paper on establishing a voluntary Code of Best Practice for the provision of carbon offsetting to UK customers. The purpose of establishing such a Code is to ensure consumer confidence in this emerging market. Such confidence will also be an important factor in the market's continued growth. The consultation has now been completed and responses are being assessed. The intention is to have the Code operating in late 2007.

The Code proposes that the most suitable carbon credits for offsetting are those from the regulated market because they are robust and verifiable.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental effectiveness of the services offered by carbon-offsetting companies. [145904]

Ian Pearson: Carbon offsetting is not a cure for climate change, but it can to help raise awareness and reduce the impact of our actions. The biggest priority is to reduce our emissions wherever possible. However, where this cannot be achieved, offsetting can help by creating the equivalent carbon dioxide saving elsewhere.

There are currently two markets in operation which generate emission reductions for carbon offsetting. The regulated market encompasses emission reductions generated under the Kyoto mechanisms, while the voluntary market covers those which operate outside the Kyoto regime. There is currently no regulatory framework governing the voluntary market.

In order to provide more confidence, DEFRA has published a consultation paper on establishing a voluntary Code of Best Practice for the provision of carbon offsetting to UK customers. The aim is to have the Code operating in late 2007.

The Code proposes that the most suitable carbon credits for offsetting are those from the regulated market because they are robust and verifiable. These credits include Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), EU Allowances (EUAs) and Emission Reduction Units (ERUs). However, it is possible to offset voluntarily, that is without a formal compliance obligation, and use regulated credits to achieve this. Government currently uses CERs within its own voluntary internal carbon offsetting schemes.

Catering: EC Law

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the catering industry is exempt from the EU Organic Food Standards adopted on 12 June 2007. [143956]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Council agreed that it was not currently appropriate to consider EU standards for the catering sector and that instead, it should be left to the control of national governments. The Commission have undertaken to review this by 31 December 2011.

Cattle: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 380W, on cattle: exports, what the journey length in hours was of each shipment of calves aged under 42 days exported to Spain between 1 January and 30 April 2007. [140172]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the figures requested, for journeys between 1 January 2007 and 30 April 2007:

Destination	*Number of shipments*	*Total number of calves*	*Average journey time (hours)*	*Number of short rest stops/ journey*	*Number of 24 hour rest periods/ journey*
Barcelona	50	3,202	57	2	1
Alcarras	44	1,752	83	2	2
Vic (from Carmarthen)	8	164	109	2	3
Vic (from Gloucester)	12	693	54	2	1

Destination	Number of shipments	Total number of calves	Average journey time (hours)	Number of short rest stops/ journey	Number of 24 hour rest periods/ journey
Vic (from Taunton)	3	18	103	2	2
Pulgcreda	21	911	55	3	1
Total	138	6,740	69	13	10

Cattle TB: Independent Scientific Group

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when Ministers first received the report of the Independent Scientific Group on cattle tuberculosis. [144580]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA Ministers, together with a range of stakeholders, received the final report of the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) on 15 June 2007. On 23 May, under cover of a letter from the chairman of the ISG, Ministers received an incomplete draft of the report.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next plans to meet representatives of the Independent Scientific Group on bovine tuberculosis to discuss its recent report. [144888]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no current plans for DEFRA Ministers to meet representatives of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) to discuss its recent report. The work of the ISG has come to an end.

The Government are committed to establishing a new bovine TB science advisory body to provide independent expert advice to inform policy decisions on bovine TB issues.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to ask Professor Godfray to carry out an evaluation of the recent Independent Scientific Group report on bovine tuberculosis. [144889]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to ask Professor Godfray to carry out such a review.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights were. [144946]

Barry Gardiner: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143895]

Barry Gardiner: This information is partially available from statistics published by the Cabinet Office in the annual Civil Service Statistics reports. The latest published statistics are for 1 April 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Links are provided for each of the three years to the following tables:

Entrants by Department and disability status

2002-03:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report2003/diversity_tables/table_af.xls

2003-04:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report2004/entrants_and_leavers/Table%20AF%20-%20final.xls

2004-05:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report2005/2005table_ae.xls

Entrants by Department and gender

2002-03:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report_2003/diversity_tables/table_ag.xls

2003-04:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/pubrications/xls/report_2004/entrants_and_leavers/Table%20AG%20-%20final.xls

2004-05:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report_2005/2005table_af.xls

Entrants by responsibility level, age and gender (breakdown by Department not available)

2002-03:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report_2003/diversity_tables/table_ah.xls

2003-04:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report_2004/entrants_and_leavers/Table%20AH%20-%20final.xls

2004-05:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report_2005/2005table_ag.xls

A further breakdown by permanent/temporary status and working pattern is not available from published sources.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143912]

Barry Gardiner: This information is available from statistics published by the Cabinet Office in the annual Civil Service Statistics reports. The latest published statistics are for 1 April 2005.

Links are provided to the following tables:

Permanent staff in post for all staff and SCS level by gender:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report2005/table n.xls

Permanent staff in post for all staff and SCS level by disability status:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/report2005/table p.xls

In addition, the Office for National Statistics has carried out an ad hoc analysis for permanent staff by Department aged 55 or over. In DEFRA, 13 per cent. of staff were aged 55 or over on 1 April 2005.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144622]

Barry Gardiner: The total expenditure of the Department's Communication Directorate on marketing activity for each of the last five years is as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
2002	3,747,138.54
2003	2,380,639.81
2004	3,285,228.17
2005	3,190,869.12
2006	2,576,335.49

From its inception to 2003-04, the Department did not record separate costs for campaigns as part of its communications expenditure.

For details of advertising campaigns, costs and external agencies involved from 2004-05 to 2006-07, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1655-56W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps). The Department procures its advertising services from the Central Office of Information (COI). Advertising agencies are selected from the COI rosters and supply their services to the COI, not to DEFRA directly.

For details of public relations campaigns, costs and external agencies involved from 2004-05 to 2006-07, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1654-55Ws, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) The Department procures its public relations services from the Central Office of Information (COI). Public relations agencies are selected from the COI rosters and supply their services to the COI, not to DEFRA directly.

For costs for DEFRA's delivery bodies, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1820-23W, by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson) to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood).

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145937]

Barry Gardiner: My Department does not currently have a concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive but will work with colleagues in the devolved Administration in Northern Ireland to develop one. A copy will be laid in the House when this has been done.

The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2007; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment has been; and if he will make a statement. [143104]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows details of bonuses awarded to staff in core-DEFRA and those Agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements in 2007 i.e. Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Services.

	January-May 2007
Number of staff awarded bonuses	822
Proportion of workforce (Percentage)	14
Total amount of bonuses paid (£)	347,100
Highest bonus (£)	900

However, these figures represent In-Year Performance bonuses only, paid to staff at Grade 6 and below.

Payment of annual performance bonuses to staff in and below the SCS for 2007 have still to be finalised.

Separate performance bonus arrangements operate for staff in the SCS and those at Grade 6 and below.

For the SCS

Non-consolidated cash payments, otherwise known as bonuses, reward in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Bonuses are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Bonuses are allocated by departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the SSRB recommendations. The intention is that bonus decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

For Staff at Grade 6 and below

The High Performance Bonus Awards scheme introduced in April 2005, provide staff in DEFRA and those Agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements, with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance

that significantly exceeds normal expectations. The process should provide staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn a bonus, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem.

There are two types of award:

In-Year High Performance bonuses paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and

Annual High Performance bonuses which are paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers in each DG for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145275]

Barry Gardiner: In the period June 2006 to June 2007 the Department initiated 114 public consultations. The cost of each of these consultations could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143796]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, core-DEFRA spent £522.88 with Remploy in the last 12 months. Departmental accounts classify the expenditure as Diversity Advertising non-recruitment.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142493]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA aims to produce a website that is accessible for users with disabilities. In April 2007 changes were made to the site which made it more compliant with Web Accessibility Initiative standards, further supporting DEFRA's commitments under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Video is not used extensively on the DEFRA website but where it is used we aim to provide accompanying transcripts or explanatory descriptive text for those unable to hear the audio content of an online video. We have not assessed the feasibility of also providing BSL.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145258]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA'S approach has been to undertake a full staff survey every 18 months. The last full staff survey took place in 2005 and cost approximately £65,000 plus VAT.

Domestic Waste

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 77W, on domestic waste, and the Answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on domestic waste: Norfolk, when he will publish an amended list of local authorities. [145346]

Mr. Bradshaw: A revised list of local authorities known to be operating alternate weekly collections (AWC) of refuse and recyclables/organic waste is as follows:

Local authority

Alnwick District Council
Amber Valley
Ashfield District Council
Babergh District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Barnsley MBC
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Blyth Valley Borough Council
Boston Borough Council
Braintree District Council
Breckland District Council
Bridgnorth District Council
Broadland District Council
Bromsgrove District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Burnley Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Cannock Chase District Council
Canterbury City Council
Carlisle City Council
Castle Morpeth Borough Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Chiltern District Council[1]
Chorley Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Corby Borough Council
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Daventry District Council
Derby City Council
Derwentside District Council
East Hampshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Erewash Borough Council
Exeter City Council

Fenland District Council
Forest Heath District Council
Fylde Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Harborough District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Kennet District Council
Kettering Borough Council
Lancaster City Council
Lichfield District Council
Lincoln City Council
London Borough of Harrow
Macclesfield Borough Council
Mansfield District Council
Melton Borough Council
Mendip District Council
Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mole Valley District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
North Devon District Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council
North Norfolk District Council
North Shropshire District Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
Northampton Borough Council
Nottingham City Council
Oswestry Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Pendle Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Preston Borough Council
Purbeck District Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Rochdale MBC[2]
Rossendale Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Ryedale District Council
Shepway District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Hams District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Norfolk District Council
South Northamptonshire Council
South Ribble Borough Council
South Shropshire District Council
South Somerset District Council
South Staffordshire District Council
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Taunton Deane Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Telford and Wrekin Borough Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Torbay Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Tynedale District Council
Uttlesford District Council
Vale Royal Borough Council
Wansbeck District Council
Waveney District Council
Waverley Borough Council
Wealden District Council
Wellingborough Borough Council
West Lancashire District Council
West Wiltshire District Council
Winchester City Council
Wirral MBC[3]
Woking Borough Council
Worcester City
Wycombe District Council
Wyre Borough Council
Wyre Forest District Council
York City Council

[1] Scheme not district-wide

[2] Phase one introduced summer 2006. Next three phases to be introduced July 2007 to February 2008

[3] Roll out January 2007—scheme not borough wide

Some authorities listed provide AWC of refuse alongside a weekly recyclables and/or food waste collection service. This list represents the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) best understanding of the current situation. However, the often rapid changes in this area mean that this list might not be completely up to date.

WRAP has deleted from the list those authorities that had been incorrectly recorded as operating AWC schemes. Authorities operating small scale trials have also not been included, in order to avoid any confusion or potential misunderstanding if the authority has not yet agreed wider roll out of the scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 77W, on domestic waste, what records the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds of local authorities intentions relating to the introduction of alternate weekly collections later in 2007. [145347]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities intending to introduce alternate weekly collections later in the year are under no obligation to inform the Waste and Resources Action Programme of this fact.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on the size of wheelie bins for collections of household waste. [145240]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 empowers local authorities to specify the number, size, construction and maintenance of their waste receptacles, what can be placed in each, and also where and when they should be placed for collection.

My Department has funded the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), to provide advice and support to local authorities in carrying out their recycling and waste collection operations efficiently and effectively. However, WRAP has not produced any specific guidance on the size of wheelie bins for the collection of household waste.

Decisions on the best way to collect waste are rightly a matter for local authorities, not central Government.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the comments made by the Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food on 10 May 2007, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column 1534, (1) what estimate his Department has made of the increase in fly-tipping resulting from the move to alternate weekly collections of household rubbish; [145348]

(2) what requirements local authorities who move to alternate weekly collections of household rubbish will have to take extra steps to tackle fly-tipping. [145349]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has not made any assessment of fly-tipping incidents resulting from local authorities moving to alternate weekly collections of household waste.

There is currently no evidence that switching to alternate weekly collection of household waste results in an increase in fly tipping incidents.

Any changes to waste collection methods that are poorly implemented may increase the risk of fly-tipping. However, DEFRA actively encourages local authorities to have fly-tipping prevention and enforcement strategies in place, regardless of whether they introduce alternate weekly collections or not.

My Department is currently in discussions with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to consider whether they could work with any local authorities that are introducing these schemes in the future to carry out some pre, and post, scheme analysis of fly-tipping. This is in addition to the guidance that WRAP is currently updating on alternate weekly collections, in order to minimise nuisance and health risks.

It is the responsibility of each local authority to determine what works best for their own community, rather than central Government.

My Department is currently consulting on proposals to give local authorities the freedom to introduce financial incentive schemes to encourage recycling and minimisation of waste by householders. This consultation seeks views on what controls, if any, Government should place on local authorities before allowing them to introduce such incentive schemes. We have proposed that there should be a requirement for local authorities who use these powers to have fly-tipping prevention and enforcement strategies in place.

Eggs: Labelling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure clear labelling of eggs produced from battery cage hens. [145564]

Mr. Bradshaw: The rules for marketing Class A eggs for consumption are agreed at European level. Each egg must be stamped with various details relating to its origin and including a code identifying the method of production. Packs or displays of Class A eggs must also be labelled with the production method and an explanation of the code on the eggs. Together, these enable the consumer to determine whether an egg is organic, free range, barn, or from a caged hen.

These rules are actively enforced in England from the primary production through packing to distribution by Animal Health 'Egg Marketing Inspectors' and by local authorities at retail and catering level.

Electronic Equipment: Recycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson) of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1342W, on electronic equipment: recycling, what mechanisms the Government hope will be established to provide for the expected increase in recycling of *(a)* metals, *(b)* plastics and *(c)* other materials. [142884]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has existing treatment capacity for many types of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). For example, we have some of the largest and most modern fridge treatment facilities in Europe and are currently importing fridges from France and the Republic of Ireland. We have growing capacity for the treatment of TVs and monitors with cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and good treatment capacity for lamps and fluorescent tubes. The capacity in these areas has been prompted by the requirements of the Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations (in the case of fridges and freezers) and the Hazardous Waste Regulations in the case of other types of hazardous WEEE.

Since the WEEE UK Regulations were laid on 12 December 2006 this existing infrastructure has been further enhanced, with investments of over £15 million across the UK. This investment includes plants in South Wales, Bedfordshire, Kent and Birmingham which will be capable of handling in excess of an additional 250,000 tonnes of WEEE material.

Energy Supply

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will consider the merits of publishing a low carbon

milestone document to help Ofgem achieve its new role of analysing the long term energy outlook in order to address concerns about security of supply as outlined in the recent Energy White Paper. [143866]

Ian Pearson: As set out in the Energy White Paper, the new Energy Markets Outlook is to be jointly managed by the Department of Trade and Industry and Ofgem to provide energy market information relating to security of supply.

Through the Energy White Paper and draft Climate Change Bill, the Government have provided a framework to encourage the development of low carbon technologies, which will allow the market to help minimise the cost of achieving our goals. Our commitment to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme also shows our continued belief that a carbon market is the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions. However, it is for the market to decide how to respond and in which technologies to invest. We therefore have no plans to publish a milestone document.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers his Department has *(a)* to advise, *(b)* to encourage and *(c)* to compel businesses to minimise energy and electricity consumption during non-business times in order (i) to improve energy efficiency, (ii) to minimise environmental damage and (iii) to reduce light pollution. [145513]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA funds the Carbon Trust, who work closely with business to encourage sustainable use of energy, establish energy efficient practices and systems, and develop low carbon technologies. Under its Solutions programme the trust advises businesses on cutting carbon emissions through reducing energy use, including advice on switching off lighting and equipment during non-business times. The Carbon Trust holds free lighting workshops, and produces a number of publications specifically focused on lighting in the business sector.

The Secretary of State has the power to enter into climate change agreements (CCAs) with industry sectors and individual companies that meet certain eligibility conditions. CCAs give entitlement to claim an 80 per cent. discount from the Climate Change Levy in return for meeting challenging energy efficiency or carbon emissions reductions targets. The targets apply regardless of when energy is used.

In addition, as part of the Energy White Paper, the Government announced that they would be taking forward the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). The CRC is a mandatory emissions trading scheme that will target energy use emissions from large non-energy intensive commercial and public sector organisations, such as supermarkets, banks, large local authorities and Government Departments.

This sector accounts for around 10 per cent. of the UK's carbon emissions and is rising. There is scope for significant abatement. The CRC will deliver emissions reductions of 1.1 MtC per year by 2020 from this sector. It would encourage organisations to minimise their energy use by placing a cap on their overall energy use emissions.

We will be publishing a consultation document shortly on the detail of how the proposed CRC can best be implemented.

Stronger powers were provided to local authorities to tackle light pollution under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The Act extends the statutory nuisance regime enabling local authorities to issue abatement notices, and individuals to take private action through the magistrates court.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet industry representatives to discuss smart metering and the Energy White Paper. [144751]

Ian Pearson: My Department holds regular meetings with industry representatives to discuss a range of issues, including smart metering and the proposals in the Energy White Paper.

Environment Agency: Natural England

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had on merging the Environment Agency and Natural England; and if he will make a statement. [144766]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions on merging the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Farms

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average size of a farm is in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK. [144228]

Barry Gardiner: The average size of holdings for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the South West Region and England at June 2006 can be found in the following table. Figures for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

	Average holding size in hectares
(a) Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	31.2
(b) South West Region	36.8
(c) England	46.6

Note:
Estimates have been made for holdings not selected or not responding.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Fisheries: Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average annual earnings of fishermen in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [144232]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the average annual earnings of fisherman in (a) Cornwall, (b) the South West and (c) the UK in each year since 1979. (144232)

I attach a table showing average annual earnings for a fisherman in the UK, for the years 1999 to 2006. Figures showing the average annual earnings of a fisherman in Cornwall or the South West, and annual figures prior to 1999, are not available. For years prior to 2002, 'fisherman' is defined as Unit Group 903 in the Standard Occupational Classification 1990—'Fishing and Related Workers'. For years 2002 onwards, 'fisherman' is defined as Unit Group 5119 in the Standard Occupational Classification 2000—'Agricultural and Fishing Trades Not Elsewhere Classified'.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Average earnings for all full-time employee jobs[a] by occupation[b] (United Kingdom)

£

	Gross annual pay	
	Median	Mean
1999	14,600	x
2000	15,900	**18,800
2001	15,700	x
2002[b]	*12,600	*13,700
2003	*13,400	*14,400
2004 excl.	*14,900	*15,900
2004 inc.[c]	*14,200	*15,800
2005	x	x
2006	**17,300	*18,400

Notes:

[a] Employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than a year.

[b] "Fisherman" is defined as Unit Group 903 in the Standard Occupational Classification 1990—"Fishing and Related Workers", covering years 1999 to 2001, and as Unit Group 5119 in the Standard Occupational Classification 2000—'Agricultural and Fishing Trades Not Elsewhere Classified", covering years 2002 onwards.

[c] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.

Guide to quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:

CV<=5 per cent.

* CV>5 per cent. and <=10 per cent.

** CV> 10 per cent. and <=20 per cent.

x CV > 20 per cent. The median is the value below which 50 per cent. of employees fall. It is preferred over the mean for earnings data as it is influenced less by extreme values and because of the skewed distribution of earnings data.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of fishermen in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK living below the poverty line. [144235]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Fisheries: Manpower

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishermen there were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979; and what proportion of the total workforce they made up in each year. [144233]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested, for the UK and the South West, is shown in the following table where available. A breakdown of the number of fishermen in Cornwall is not available.

	Numbers of UK fishermen based in:		Overall workforce[2]	
	South West England[1]	Total UK	South West England	Total UK
1979	—	—	—	26,541,000
1980	—	23,309	—	26,863,000
1981	—	23,990	—	27,093,000
1982	—	23,011	—	26,892,000
1983	—	22,587	—	26,653,000
1984	—	21,869	—	27,485,000
1985	—	22,224	—	27,710,000
1986	—	22,634	—	27,837,000
1987	—	22,424	—	28,092,000
1988	—	22,320	—	28,439,000
1989	—	—	—	28,815,000
1990	—	—	—	28,925,000
1991	—	—	—	28,807,000
1992	—	—	2,326,000	28,428,000
1993	—	—	2,326,000	28,234,000
1994	3,203	20,703	2,346,000	28,201,000
1995	3,090	19,986	2,356,000	28,202,000
1996	2,909	19,044	2,359,000	28,345,000
1997	2,767	18,604	2,402,000	28,492,000
1998	2,841	17,889	2,413,000	28,497,000
1999	2,485	16,896	2,444,000	28,811,000
2000	2,449	15,649	2,464,000	29,071,000
2001	2,336	14,958	2,474,000	29,122,000
2002	2,309	14,205	2,502,000	29,399,000
2003	2,403	13,122	2,514,000	29,645,000
2004	2,502	13,453	2,533,000	29,839,000
2005	2,331	12,647	2,557,000	30,100,000
2006	—	—	2,575,000	30,552,000

[1] Based on vessels licensed at the administrative ports of Brixham, Newlyn and Plymouth, Marine Fisheries Agency.

[2] Economically active persons in the UK aged over 16 estimated by the Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas' fishing quota advice for 2008; and if he will make a statement. [145463]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1664W.

Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made with the development of the *(a)* North sea nephrops discard pilot schemes and *(b)* Irish sea discards pilot scheme; what information his Department has recorded as a result of the schemes; whether he is in a position to make recommendations as a result of the schemes; and if he will make a statement. [144527]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on the 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1370W, and the 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has made to his EU counterparts on *(a)* a community-wide discard ban and *(b)* the introduction of a full catch registry scheme; and if he will make a statement. [144539]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the 11-12 June Agriculture and Fisheries Council, my ministerial colleagues and I discussed the Commission's recent communication which proposes a series of discard bans in EU fisheries. I made clear that, although the UK was generally supportive of the Commission's initiative to reduce discards, we had concerns about the practical implementation of the measures proposed, particularly discard bans. We believe the Communication significantly underestimates the potential enforcement difficulties and costs associated with such measures, especially in the mixed fisheries around the UK.

Fly-tipping: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority in the East of England in each of the last four years for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; [144540]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority in the East of England in each year for which figures are available. [144541]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Flycapture database, which was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, records the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities and details of enforcement action. The following tables show the number of incidents and prosecutions recorded by each local authority in the East of England on Flycapture for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Data for 2006-07 have not yet been finalised but will be available in the summer.

East of England flycapture data for 2004-05

East of England borough	*Total number of incidents*	*Estimated clearance cost: recorded (£)*	*Number of prosecutions taken to court*	*Number of successful prosecutions*
Babergh district council	343	21,035.00	0	0
Basildon district council	11,639	561,523.00	4	4
Bedford borough council	2,210	125,520.00	3	3
Braintree district council	2,154	115,105.00	0	0
Breckland district council	612	30,550.00	0	0
Brentwood borough council	502	44,447.00	0	0
Broadland district council	497	21,988.00	1	1
Broxbourne borough council	3,483	208,153.00	4	4
Cambridge city council	997	60,977.00	0	0
Castle Point borough council	349	12,658.00	0	0
Chelmsford borough council	1,048	63,635.00	0	0
Colchester borough council	195	9,069.00	1	1
Dacorum borough council	2,208	215,341.10	0	0
East Cambridgeshire district council	667	29,730.00	0	0
East Hertfordshire district council	225	14,936.93	0	0
Epping Forest district council	2,276	79,185.00	6	5
Fenland district council	1,337	84,116.00	0	0
Forest Heath district council	682	42,135.00	0	0
Great Yarmouth borough council	2,951	245,993.50	1	1
Harlow district council	2,234	127,713.00	0	0
Hertsmere borough council	36	1,391.00	0	0
Huntingdonshire district council	852	44,669.00	0	0
Ipswich borough council	341	17,888.00	0	0
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk borough council	1,842	105,501.00	0	0
Luton borough council	2,073	[illegible]	3	3
Maldon district council	143	6,594.00	0	0
Mid Beds district council	959	57,728.26	0	0
Mid Suffolk district council	346	16,243.00	0	0
North Hertfordshire district council	564	26,876.00	0	0
North Norfolk district council	198	12,197.00	0	0
Norwich city council	7,312	304,487.00	0	0
Peterborough city council	3,515	230,282.00	0	0
Rochford district council	416	23,328.00	0	0
South Bedfordshire district council	1,041	120,891.00	0	0
South Cambridgeshire district council	669	38,749.00	0	0

East of England flycapture data for 2004-05

East of England borough	Total number of incidents	Estimated clearance costs recorded (£)	Number of prosecutions taken to court	Number of successful prosecutions
South Norfolk district council	737	50,040.00	0	0
Southend-on-Sea borough council	1,736	79,052.00	0	0
St. Albans city council	876	19,912.00	0	0
St. Edmundsbury borough council	629	31,425.00	1	1
Stevenage borough council	5,411	202,945.00	8	8
Suffolk Coastal district council	311	13,146.00	0	0
Tendring district council	578	24,960.00	0	0
Three Rivers district council	368	22,292.00	0	0
Thurrock borough council	1,571	96,054.16	[1]	[1]
Uttlesford district council	242	12,743.00	9	0
Watford borough council	672	24,950.00	4	4
Waveney district council	407	52,949.00	0	0
Welwyn Hatfield district council	1,620	133,536.00	0	0
Total	72,074	3,844,638.95	36	35

[1] Data not available

East of England flycapture data for 2005-06

East of England borough	Total number of incidents	Estimated clearance costs recorded (£)	Number of prosecutions taken to court	Number of successful prosecutions
Babergh district council	342	16,827	1	1
Basildon district council	8,586	417,754	1	1
Bedford borough council	2,266	113,219	1	1
Braintree district council	2,184	123,612	0	0
Breckland district council	1,716	67,911	0	0
Brentwood borough council	388	35,103	1	1
Broadland district council	565	29,723	2	2
Broxbourne borough council	2,641	139,969	16	15
Cambridge City Council	1,321	87,757	0	0
Castle Point borough council	544	22,552	0	0
Chelmsford borough council	517	33,139	2	1
Colchester borough council	141	5,206	0	0
Dacorum borough council	270	34,472	0	0
East Cambridgeshire district council	651	28,421	0	0
East Hertfordshire district council	734	35,116	1	1
Epping Forest district council	2,492	89,893	0	0
Fenland district council	1,808	77,314	0	0
Forest Heath district council	486	27,468	0	0
Great Yarmouth borough council	2,543	221,944	2	2
Harlow district council	2,220	131,731	0	0
Hertsmere borough council	239	35,399	0	0
Huntingdonshire district council	588	32265	0	0
Ipswich borough council	376	19,168	6	6
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk borough council	2,035	115,030	0	0
Luton borough council	2,523	134,181	4	4
Maldon district council	576	23,753	0	0
Mid Beds district council	921	73,020	0	0
Mid Suffolk district council	41	2,061	0	0
North Hertfordshire district council	755	34,120	0	0
North Norfolk district council	231	13,477	1	1
Norwich city council	7,086	270,688	1	1
Peterborough city council	7,125	411,121	0	0
Rochford district council	419	21,317	0	0
South Bedfordshire district council	750	82,387	0	0
South Cambridgeshire district council	485	28,542	2	2
South Norfolk district council	920	59,683	0	0
Southend-on-Sea borough council	1,591	75,841	0	0
St. Albans City Council	850	34,100	0	0
St. Edmundsbury borough council	598	30,200	1	1
Stevenage borough council	3,454	146,195	0	0
Suffolk Coastal district council	388	14,004	0	0
Tendring district council	523	22,790	0	0
Three Rivers district council	560	31,712	0	0
Thurrock borough council	1,520	82,922	5	5
Uttlesford district council	240	10,268	0	0
Watford borough council	947	25,984	1	1
Waveney district council	962	61,539	0	0
Welwyn Hatfield district council	2,874	249,887	0	0
Total	71,812	3,882,910	48	46

Fly-tipping

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Environment Agency has made of the *(a)* number of incidents and *(b)* tonnage of fly-tipping and illegal dumping in England in each of the last three years. [143491]

Mr. Bradshaw: Flycapture, the national database of fly-tipping incidents, was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities.

Flycapture data show that, in England, 926,534 incidents were reported in the period from April 2004 to March 2005. There were 2,509,976 incidents reported from April 2005 to March 2006.

A possible reason for the rise in fly-tipping offences recorded by Flycapture in its second year may simply be due to better reporting and a rise in the number of local authorities in England submitting regular returns. This number rose significantly, from 79.5 per cent. in April 2004 when the database was first launched, to 92 per cent. in 2005-06. Over time, the database will help us build up a more accurate picture of illegally dumped waste, as well as providing a useful management tool for local authorities in tackling the problem.

Data for 2006-07 are not yet available but will be published this summer. Flycapture does not record fly-tipping tonnages.

Foie Gras

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps the Government take to ensure that the production of foie gras in England does not contravene UK animal welfare laws; [145562]

(2) what the Government's policy is on the production and sale of foie gras. [145563]

Mr. Bradshaw: Foie gras is not produced in the UK and this Government have made their view very clear that the production of foie gras using force feeding gives rise to serious welfare concerns. If any production were to occur, Animal Health would be asked to investigate and advise on any contravention of UK animal welfare laws. The UK has the highest animal welfare standards we have ever had and they are among the highest in the world. This Government have been at the forefront of implementing higher standards domestically, and have been active on a European and international level in trying to improve standards.

The free movement of goods is a well established principle in Community law and is enshrined in Part III, Title I of the Treaty Establishing the European Community (TEC). A unilateral ban by the UK on the import or sale of foie gras would contravene the provisions of the TEC and would be highly likely to result in proceedings being brought against the UK before the European Court of Justice.

In addition, even if the Community law obstacles to introducing a restriction could be overcome, which is unlikely, the World Trade Organisation rules do not allow us to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applying in third countries. Ultimately, the most effective action that can be taken is for individuals not to buy foie gras, if they dislike the way it is produced.

Genetic Modification Inspectorate: Manpower

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the Department's Genetic Modification Inspectorate in each of the last five years. [145351]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA's GM Inspectorate is based at the Central Science Laboratory in York. Details of full-time equivalent staff employed in the GM Inspectorate in each of the last five years are given as follows.

	Full-time equivalents
2002-03	2.04
2003-04	2.00
2004-05	5.01
2005-06	3.40
2006-07	1.94

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the availability of Warm Front grants in *(a)* England and *(b)* Solihull; and how many people took up those grants in each area in the last period for which figures are available. [145599]

Ian Pearson: All private sector households in England, where the owner or tenant is in receipt of a Warm Front qualifying benefit, have the potential to qualify for Warm Front.

Of the 253,079 households assisted in 2006-07, 463 were in the Solihull constituency.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how Warm Front has drawn up its pricing structure for the installations of new boilers and central heating systems; and whether his Department was *(a)* consulted or *(b)* involved in other ways in the development of the structure. [145851]

Ian Pearson: Both the labour and the material costs of all Warm Front work has been subject to a competitive tender (in line with EU regulations). My Department has been central to these processes.

Institute of Zoology: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public funds were made available to the Institute of Zoology in each of the last five years. [145553]

Barry Gardiner: Funding by DEFRA to the Institute of Zoology to carry out research projects from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2002-03	72,130
2003-04	53,000
2004-05	10,000
2005-06	15,000
2006-07	273,000

Lorries: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of heavy goods vehicle traffic on *(a)* air quality management areas, *(b)* special protection areas, *(c)* sites of special scientific interest and *(d)* sites of importance for nature conservation. [145725]

Barry Gardiner: Road traffic has been identified as a significant source of pollution in 95 per cent. of the air quality management areas (designated by local authorities) declared so far.

Local air quality assessments include a basic screening process to determine vehicles' impact on air quality. Typically, this considers traffic as consisting only of light and heavy duty vehicle types, assigning average levels of emissions to each of these in order to model their air quality impact on the surrounding area. Although this method does not apportion a fraction of the overall level of air pollutants directly to specific classes of vehicles, such as heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), it does ensure that their emissions are represented in the assessment.

Should the screening process identify a likely failure of air quality objectives, a further, more detailed level of assessment is undertaken to establish whether an air quality management area is necessary. These methods of assessment all consider the specific contribution of HGVs to ambient air pollution.

No specific national assessment of the impact of HGV traffic has been made for the areas mentioned in *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)*. Terrestrial special protection areas are also notified as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). Natural England data on the reasons for unfavourable condition on SSSIs identifies that 18,524 hectares of SSSI land are adversely affected by air pollution. However the impacts of air pollution and identification of air pollution as an adverse activity affecting site condition are currently considered to be under reported. Furthermore SSSI condition is not disaggregated to identify different sources of air pollution. Individual assessments of the impact from air pollution have been made in respect of specific sites.

Mercury: EC Law

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what EU rules exist on regulation of the use of mercury in *(a)* barometers and *(b)* lightbulbs; and if he will make a statement. [144765]

Ian Pearson: A legislative review by the Commission in July 2003 did not identify any EU regulations pertaining specifically to the use of mercury in barometers. As a result, the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury, endorsed by Council in June 2005, contains a commitment to restrict the marketing for consumer use and health care of non-electrical or electronic measuring and control equipment containing mercury.

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (ROMS) Regulations banned the sale of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) containing in excess of 5 milligrams (mg) of mercury per lamp from July 2006. Current mercury levels in CFLs are typically 4mg per lamp.

From 1 July 2007, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations will require systems to be in place allowing final holders and distributors to return waste CFLs free of charge. For non household CFL waste, the WEEE Regulations require that producers provide for separate collection.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the average carbon price which would be required by the nuclear industry in order to make new nuclear power generation economically viable in the UK. [142098]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

As part of the 2007 Energy White Paper cost-benefit analysis on new nuclear power generation was published. This showed the balance between costs and benefits under alternative gas price, carbon price and nuclear cost scenarios. The analysis is available at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file39525.pdf

Organic Food

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Soil Association on *(a)* the 0.1 per cent. threshold for UK organic food and *(b)* the EU Organic Food Standards adopted on 12 June. [144014]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* During the consultation period the Soil Association expressed concern over certain aspects of the proposals to revise the EC regulation. These centred around the compulsory use of the EU logo and the provisions regarding the prohibition of GMs. We understand that the Soil Association would prefer no threshold to be specified in the organic regulation.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on his decision to agree a compulsory EU logo for organic food. [144016]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The proposals to introduce into the EC regulation an EU logo and a requirement to use it were issues on which we consulted. The conclusion of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards was that it supported the proposals, as did the majority of stakeholder bodies. However, the Soil Association expressed concern and opposed the measures.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to consult on his agreement with EU ministers to adopt common standards for organic food across the EU. [144017]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* We consulted widely on the new regulation between its presentation by the Commission at the end of 2005 and

its agreement by the Council of Ministers on 12 June 2007. We plan to repeat this level of engagement during the development of the detailed implementing rules. The European Commission also plan to launch a public consultation on the implementing rules after the summer.

Pets: Electromagnetic Fields

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the health of domestic pets of radio waves from home wireless broadband systems; and if he will make a statement. [145009]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such assessment has been made.

Polar Bears: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the conservation of polar bears. [145554]

Barry Gardiner: The United Kingdom is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES, which is implemented within the EU by the Wildlife Trade Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97), regulates trade in over 5,000 species of animals, including the polar bear (Ursus maritimus). Polar bears are listed under Appendix II as a species that is not necessarily now threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade is closely controlled. Under the EU Regulation the international trade in polar bears and other vulnerable species is strictly regulated to ensure that it will not be detrimental to their wild populations.

Currently, however, the chief threat to polar bears is the impact of climate change, which is felt particularly strongly in polar regions. If global temperatures continue to rise, Arctic summer sea ice could disappear almost entirely by the latter part of this century. The UK continues to take a strong lead internationally on climate change. In particular, we are working through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the G8 to secure agreement to a long-term international framework that can address dangerous climate change.

Poultry: Animal Feed

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether poultry feed containing poultry parts may be imported into the UK; [144441]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the feeding of dead poultry parts to poultry on the risk of infection of *(a)* avian influenza and *(b)* other conditions; [144442]

(3) what estimate he has made of the tonnage of feed for poultry which was recycled from dead poultry parts in England in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [144443]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under EU-wide Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)-related feed ban controls, introduced in 2001, most processed animal proteins, including those derived from poultry, have been prohibited from use in any farmed animal feed. This builds on longer-standing controls on mammalian-derived processed animal proteins.

Separate controls, in place since 2002 under the EU Animal By-Products Regulations, prohibit processed animal proteins from being recycled back to the same species they are derived from. These controls mean that feeding poultry using recycled processed animal protein derived from dead poultry is not permitted, either in the UK or in any other member state. Additionally, no poultry feed containing processed animal protein derived from poultry may be imported either into the UK, or into any other member state.

Neither pigs nor poultry, as naturally omnivorous animals, have been shown in experiments to be orally susceptible to BSE, and no naturally occurring Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy have yet been identified in these species. Nevertheless, the principle of preventing intra-species recycling of processed animal protein in feed will continue to apply to all farmed animal species both now and in the future.

Recycling

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library the data from WasteDataFlow showing *(a)* the final destination of materials sent for recycling, *(b)* tonnage sent for recycling and *(c)* quantity sent for recycling but rejected/disposed of by each local authority in England in the last period for which figures are available. [143461]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am arranging for information to be placed in the House Library showing *(a)* the reported destination of municipal waste sent for recycling, *(b)* the tonnage of municipal waste sent for recycling and *(c)* the amount reported as being rejected, by each local authority in England. All data relate to municipal waste and are as reported by local authorities to WasteDataFlow for the 2005-06 financial year.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what marine protected areas are in place; what percentage of the UK coastal and offshore waters they cover; what plans he has for the designation of further such areas; and if he will make a statement. [144852]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 182 protected areas in UK inshore waters with a marine element: 81 special protection areas with marine habitats for birds, 98 special areas of conservation with marine habitats or species, and three marine nature reserves. In total, these sites cover more than 1.8 million hectares, or 2.2 per cent. of UK waters.

Work is under way to identify further sites in UK waters. To date, 19 areas for marine habitats have been surveyed and there are plans for additional survey of a further 10 areas. Between them, these areas cover up to 9,550,000 ha or 11 per cent. of UK waters. Seven areas for marine birds have also been surveyed, with plans for 30 more. A selection of these surveyed areas are

likely to be recommended as marine protected areas under the habitats and birds directives, but the number and size of these sites is not yet known.

The Marine Bill will also introduce a new mechanism to enable the designation of marine conservation zones. There have been a number of recommendations on what proportion of the UK marine area might be covered by such zones, including by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. However, there is currently insufficient scientific evidence to enable us to make an accurate assessment of the likely extent of a network of marine protected areas.

To inform the impact assessment for the Bill, we have undertaken research investigating the likely extent of a network of marine conservation zones in UK waters under a range of different scenarios. The network configurations generated as part of the exercise all resulted in 14 to 20 per cent. coverage of the UK continental shelf. These figures were based on a number of scenarios, although none of these are necessarily representative of how the final network will look. The findings of this research have been published on the DEFRA website.

Sewers

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he plans the public consultation on the transfer of private sewers to water companies to begin; [145607]

(2) how many reviews and consultations there have been since 1997 on transferring private sewers to water companies. [145608]

Ian Pearson: An extensive review of private sewers began in 2001, prompted by the concerns of householders. A consultation in 2003 revealed a high level of support for transfer, and the Government concluded there was a clear case for action. Further informal consultation and research by DEFRA and key stakeholders explored customers' views, estimated the costs and bill impacts of transfer, developed implementation options and identified further questions for the next stage of consultation.

Following the Government's decision to transfer private sewers to water and sewerage companies, we intend to publish a further public consultation on the implementation options over the summer.

Sewers: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of sewers there are in *(a)* Pendle and *(b)* East Lancashire; what percentage is over 100 years old; and if he will make a statement. [145335]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA does not hold this information. United Utilities are responsible for the public sewers in Pendle and East Lancashire and would hold any available information relating to the age and length of sewers in this area.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial contribution was made by the Waste and Resources Action Programme to each local authority in England in each of the last three years. [145239]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is currently being collated by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. I will write again to the hon. Member when it has been prepared and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the implementation of the proposals in his Department's waste review. [145232]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Strategy for England 2007 contains a high-level implementation plan which summarises the key actions flowing from the Strategy, the timeframes for these actions, and responsibilities for delivery.

Copies of the Strategy are available in the Libraries of the House and from DEFRA's website.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the efficacy of water-based mechanical-biological treatment systems in the processing of solid urban waste. [145506]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has not made an assessment specifically on the efficacy of water-based mechanical-biological treatment systems to process solid urban waste. However, studies have been carried out on behalf of DEFRA by Enviros Consulting on the mechanical-biological treatment of waste, including technologies that use water. The final reports, "Mechanical Biological Treatment and Mechanical Heat Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste" and "Advanced Biological Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste", are available from the DEFRA website.

New technologies to treat waste have the potential to play an increasingly important role in extracting materials and energy from waste for recovery, as well as reducing the quantities remaining for disposal.

Water: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had on water supply infrastructure to Peterborough with *(a)* the Department of Communities and Local Government, *(b)* Anglian Water and *(c)* Rutland county council; and if he will make a statement. [145384]

Ian Pearson: I had a meeting with Anglian Water in December 2006 at which the company briefed me on its operations and gave me its views on a number of contemporary water policy matters. Improvements to resilience of supply, including to Peterborough, were among the many issues raised by the company but no discussion took place on specific infrastructure developments. Any such discussion would have been inappropriate since proposed infrastructure projects could come before Ministers for decision on appeal against

refusal of planning permission. For that reason, my Department has had no other discussions with these or any other bodies specifically about water supply infrastructure serving Peterborough.

Whales: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Japanese environment ministers regarding the international ban on whaling. [145556]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no discussions between DEFRA Ministers and Japanese Environment Ministers on this issue.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure the conservation of whales. [145557]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK has been, and will remain, at the forefront of the fight to ensure that anti-whaling countries do not restart commercial whaling or reduce the level of protection for cetacean species around the world.

At this year's annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UK and other anti-whaling countries were able to secure a resolution that reaffirmed the continued need for the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. This resolution subsequently served us well in the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, enabling us to defeat proposals aimed at eventually allowing trade in whale products to take place.

World Environment Day

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what ways his Department publicised World Environment Day on 5 June. [141051]

Ian Pearson: I opened the £18 million River Quaggy Flood Alleviation scheme in Lewisham, London, with the chairman of the Environment Agency Sir John Harman. I asked people to mark World Environment Agency Day by identifying the one change they can make in their everyday lives to protect the environment and fight climate change. I also urged people to go to the Environment Agency's Mend the World online survey, which was the core component of the Environment Agency's campaign this year for WED. This has been asking people for the number one action they can do to tackle climate change, the one extra action they could take and what was stopping them from doing so.

I also announced that the Government are to hold a second competition for youth Climate Change Champions to communicate climate change across the country. The nine inaugural champions, aged between 10 and 18, have been active in speaking out about climate change. Their efforts have reached an estimated 18 per cent. of the adult population and have engaged a large number of young people in the debate about what needs to be done. The competition will kick off in the summer, and nine new champions will be appointed in the autumn.

DEFRA also released a new booklet, "Climate Change: Your Guide to Inspiring Action" to help organisations communicate the ways in which people can make changes in their lives to help fight climate change. The first guide has been downloaded 40,000 times and 6,000 hard copies have been distributed. It is available on

www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

I also highlighted a number of other initiatives that took place on WED, which have received DEFRA funding through the Climate Challenge Fund scheme. These included the launch of the Royal Society of Arts/Tesco Carbonator—an online CO_2 calculator aimed at children aged 7-14 to raise awareness of climate change and the Royal Geographical Society's new website for 11 to 18-year-olds linking climate change to the geography curriculum. The fund provides financial support for communications projects seeking to achieve positive changes in public attitudes about climate change. The 83 projects cover a wide range of communications initiatives and media and are supported by £8.5 million of funding.

Zoos

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many zoos there are in England. [145530]

Barry Gardiner: My Department does not hold a definitive list of the number of zoos in England.

A list of zoos is published on the DEFRA website, based on information supplied by English local authorities that administer the provisions of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. The list provides information on 255 zoos currently operating in England.

Zoos: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government take to ensure that animals kept in zoos are not culled unnecessarily. [145561]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 the Secretary of State is required to specify detailed standards for zoo management that zoos are expected to comply with. The Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice are designed to ensure that the welfare of animals in zoos is adequately protected.

The current standards state that euthanasia in zoos is an acceptable procedure only if an animal cannot be provided with captive conditions which meet the Five Principles of animal welfare, or if it cannot be released into the wild. These Five Principles are based on the 'Five Freedoms' drawn up for livestock by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, and they comprise: provision of food and water; provision of a suitable environment; provision of animal health care; provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour; provision of protection from fear and distress.

The standards provide strict guidelines on circumstances where euthanasia is justifiable. These are:

if, in the opinion of a vet, an animal is suffering from an incurable disease, or severe pain or suffering which cannot be alleviated.

if a zoo has to close, euthanasia may be the only option for some animals and the most humane for others.

if the animal poses a serious and unavoidable threat to human safety (e.g. because it has escaped);

culling of surplus stock (including unacceptable sex ratios) where overcrowding compromises the welfare of the animals so that it is impractical to maintain them within the Five Principles.

The standards further recommend that zoos have a policy, with appropriate protocols, which should be made available to zoo inspectors during their regular inspection visits under the Zoo Licensing Act. This should also form part of the zoo's audit process. Zoos are also expected to have in place an ethical review process, which would address issues such as the establishment's culling policy.

DEFENCE

Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on advertising with *The Guardian* newspaper, including online, advertorials and advertising features, in the latest year for which figures are available. [114043]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows how much the Ministry of Defence has spent on advertising with *The Guardian* newspaper in the last year. The Naval Service has not advertised in *The Guardian* newspaper in Financial Year 2006-07. Details of Ministry of Defence civilian advertising expenditure are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Amount (£)
RAF	41,790
Army	34,000
Naval Service	0

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of *(a)* the capabilities of the Taliban in southern Afghanistan and *(b)* whether the Taliban is being assisted by Iranian elements. [137420]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The Taliban are currently able to threaten Afghan and international security forces in parts of eastern and southern Afghanistan by means of improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and small-scale ambushes. They have not been able to hold territory in the face of offensive action by Afghan and international security forces.

Iran is an influential neighbour in the region and has a strategic interest in a strong and stable Afghanistan. Nevertheless some support for the Taliban emanating from within Iran gives cause for concern, not least the illegal movements of munitions across the border with Afghanistan. Any Iranian links to illegal armed groups either through the supply of weapons, training or funding, would be completely unacceptable. We have made this clear to the Iranians and will continue to do so.

Armed Forces: Buildings

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of repairs and maintenance at properties occupied by the Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 2006. [128272]

Derek Twigg: Both the current and former Assistant Chief of General Staff occupied the same Substitute Service Accommodation in 2006 for which the Department paid a rent to a private provider. The provider is responsible for carrying out the required repairs and maintenance at the property, but is not required to provide MOD with details of the costs of doing so, which are included in the rent.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of *(a)* gardening and *(b)* repairs and maintenance at properties occupied by (i) the Chief of the General Staff, (ii) the Adjutant-General and (iii) members of the Army Board in 2006. [128273]

Derek Twigg: The Army Board consists of the Secretary of State for Defence, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, the Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence, Commander in Chief Land Command, Adjutant-General, Assistant Chief of the General Staff, the Director General of Land Equipment, Master General of the Ordnance and General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland).

Civilian members of the Army Board are not entitled to occupy defence accommodation.

Military Army Board members are accommodated under a variety of arrangements. For only some of these arrangements are costs separately identifiable. In some cases such costs are included in the rent payable.

However, available information shows that in the financial year 2005-06 the following amounts were spent:

	CGS	*AG*	*GOCNI*	*CinC Land*	*ACGS*
Maintenance and Repairs (£)	453	13,284.44	4,702.52	7,475.57	Included in rental cost
Gardening	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Included in rental cost

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Government's plans to review and amend the council tax liability of members of the Armed Forces on active service abroad. [145233]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1456W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

Armed Forces: Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of *(a)* serving and *(b)* retired UK service personnel who have embedded depleted uranium shrapnel. [144560]

Derek Twigg: We understand that less than five serving or retired UK service personnel carry embedded depleted uranium shrapnel following blue-on-blue incidents during Operation Telic.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force units were deployed for longer than four months in each of the last 10 years; and on how many occasions. [128239]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The standard operational tour length for the Army is six months; therefore, over the last 10 years the majority of Army units (that is Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Logistic Corps) will have deployed for longer than four months. Based on data held at HQ Land Command the table illustrates when, between 2003 and 2007, Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and Royal Artillery units deployed on an operation which was longer than four months. Deployments are noted in the year they commenced.

Ser	Unit Deployed	Number of Deployments longer than four months				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	[1]2007
	Infantry					
1	1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	0	1	0	0	1
2	1st Battalion Coldstream Guards	0	0	1	0	0
3	1st Battalion Scots Guards	0	1	0	0	0
4	1st Battalion Irish Guards	1	0	0	0	1
5	1st Battalion Welsh Guards	0	1	0	1	0
6	1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (1 RS)[3]	2 (one of which commenced November 2002)	0	0	1	0 (As 1 Scots)
7	1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (1 KOSB)[3]	0	0	0	0	
8	2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	0	0	0	0	0
9	3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	0	1	[2]0	0
10	4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	1	1	0	0	0
11	5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	0	1	1	0	0
12	1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	0	1	0	1	0
13	2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	1	0	1	0	0
14	1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	[2]1	0	1	0	0
15	2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	0	0	[2]0	0	0
16	1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	0	0	1	0	1
17	2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	1	0	0	1	0
18	1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment[4]	0	0	1	—	—
19	1st Battalion The King's Regiment[4]	0	[2]0	0	—	—
20	1st Battalion The Queen's Lancashire Regiment[4]	0	[2]0	[2]0	—	—
21	1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	—	—	—	0	0
22	2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	—	—	—	1	0
23	1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	0	1	0	1	0
24	2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	0	1	0	1	0
25	3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	[2]0	1	0	0	0
26	1st Battalion The Royal Welsh	0	1	0	0	1
27	2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh	1	0	1	0	1
28	1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment (1 MERCIAN)	0	1	0	0	0
29	1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (2 MERCIAN)	1	1	0	0	1

Ser	Unit Deployed	Number of Deployments longer than four months				
		2003	2004	2005	2006	[1]2007
30	1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (3 MERCIAN)	1 (commenced November 2002)	0	1	1	0
31	1st Battalion The Rifles (1RGBW)[5]	1 (commenced December 2002)	0	1	0	0 (as 1 RIFLES
32	1st Battalion The Rifles (1 DDLI)[5]	0	0	0	1	
33	2nd Battalion The Rifles	0	1	0	1	0
34	3rd Battalion The Rifles	[2]0	1	0	[2]0	0
35	4th Battalion The Rifles	0	0	0	0	1
36	5th Battalion The Rifles	1	0	0	1	0
37	1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment	0	0	1	0	0
38	1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment	1	0	1		
39	2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	1 (commenced September 2002)	0	1	0	0
40	3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	1	0	[2]0	1	0
41	1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1	0	1	0	0
42	2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles	1	0	1	0	0
	Royal Armoured Corps					
43	The Household Cavalry Regiment	[2]0	1	0	[2]0	[2]0
44	1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards	1	1	0	1	0
45	The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	1	0	1	0	0
46	The Royal Dragoon Guards	0	1	0	0	0
47	The Queen's Royal Hussars	1	[2]0	0	1	0
48	9th/12th Royal Lancers	[2]1	0	1	0	0
49	The King's Royal Hussars	1	0	1	0	[2]0
50	The Light Dragoons	0	0	1	[2]0	[2]0
51	The Queen's Royal Lancers	0	1	0	1	0
52	2nd Royal Tank Regiment	[2]0	0	0	[2]0	[2]0
	Royal Artillery					
53	1 Regt RHA	0	1	1	0	1
54	3 Regt RHA	2	0	1	0	0
55	4 Regt RA	1	1	0	1	0
56	5 Regt RA	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0
57	7 (Parachute) Regt RHA	1	[2]0	0	[2]0	0
58	12 Regt RA	1	0	1	[2]0	0
59	16 Regt RA	[2]0	0	0	0	[2]0
60	19 Regt RA	0	0	1	0	1
61	22 Regt RA[7]	1	—	—	—	—
62	26 Regt RA	1	1	0	[2]0	0
63	29 Commando Regt RA	0	0	0	1	0
64	32 Regt RA	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0	[2]0
65	39 Regt RA	0	0	0	1	[2]0
66	40 Regt RA	0	0	0	1	0
67	47 Regt RA	1	0	[2]0	1	0

[1] Up to and including deployments on Op TELIC 10 and Op HERRICK 6.
[2] Subunits from this Regiment deployed for longer than 4 months in support of operations during this year.
[3] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 SCOTS in August 2006.
[4] 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS.
[5] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 RIFLES.
[6] 1 PARA transferred to DSF in August 2005.
[7] 22 Regt RA disbanded in April 2004.

(b) From 2003, the Royal Navy reports that the number of surface ships that were deployed for more than four months in each of the corresponding years were:

	Number
2003	40
2004	32
2005	34
2006	38
2007	41

Average fleet size over this period was around 72 ships (68 in 2003 to 77 in 2007). A more detailed breakdown could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

(c) The Royal Air Force does not deploy units in the same way as the Royal Navy and Army. The Royal Air Force allocates a tasking to an Expeditionary Air Wing for a given period of time to a given theatre of operations. An Air Wing once given the task will deploy personnel from a number of different squadrons on a trickle feed basis. Individual Separated Service figures are therefore used instead to measure turbulence and sustainability.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel who have been discharged from service in the last 12 months are looking for housing; and if he will make a statement; [143959]

(2) how many armed forces personnel have been affected by the issue of local connection when looking for housing upon being discharged from service during the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [143960]

(3) how many armed forces personnel have reported being affected by housing shortages upon leaving the armed forces during the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [143961]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not hold the information requested.

On "local connection", my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning and I announced on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 107-08WS, that the Government will be amending the housing legislation to ensure that Service personnel are put on an equal footing with others applying for social housing. Also, the MOD continues to work closely with DCLG and other partners to help prevent new Service leavers becoming homeless, and to provide a safety net for existing vulnerable and homeless ex-Service personnel.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many calls were received by the Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk on each day from 1 November 2005 to 31 May 2007; what advice the Defence Housing Executive gave to Modern Housing Solutions on the number of calls that would be expected to be made each day to the Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk; and if he will make a statement; [144572]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average length of calls made to the Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk over the period 1 November 2005 and 31 May 2007. [144574]

Derek Twigg: The Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) helpdesk has been in operation since MHS began delivering services under the Housing Prime Contract (HPC) in January 2006. Details of the number of calls received per day for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 May 2007 and details of the average length of calls made to the helpdesk for each day for the period 14 March 2006 to 31 May 2007 have been placed in the Library of the House. Details of the average call length before 14 March are not available.

During the tendering process for the HPC the Department provided companies with details of a trial helpdesk which ran for three years prior to the commencement of the HPC and covered service families accommodation (SFA) in the north of England. Details of that trial, including the number of calls were provided.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what qualifications are required of staff on the Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk; and how many of the staff employed between 1 November 2005 and 31 May 2007 are serving or former services personnel. [144573]

Derek Twigg: In recruiting helpdesk staff, Modern Housing Solutions takes account of previous experience, knowledge, skills, attitude and other competencies such as communication skills and a strong customer focus but no formal qualifications are required.

No service personnel are employed on the helpdesk. Information about previous membership of the armed services is not required from those working on the helpdesk, but there are several former service personnel (as well as spouses) employed within the helpdesk at different levels.

All helpdesk staff receive two weeks initial induction training as well as regular refresher training.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of HM armed forces who *(a)* lost limbs, *(b)* suffered brain injury and *(c)* have been identified with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) have received an appointment for psychiatric support within six months of injury in each of the last five years; how many have been waiting more than six months; and how many have not been referred. [142471]

Derek Twigg: Those service personnel who have received a serious physical injury are treated as a matter of priority, most often at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and then at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre. As part of their hospital care, they will receive psychological assessment and, if necessary, treatment can commence. If required, patients can be referred later to a military Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH).

For those who do not have a serious physical injury, if their GP judges that they might be suffering from an operational related mental health condition (for example PTSD), then they will be referred to a DCMH for a detailed multidisciplinary assessment of their condition. If it is confirmed that the individual is suffering from a mental illness such as PTSD, they will receive specialist treatment at a DCMH or, if in-patient care is required, a Priory Group Facility.

Our mental health services operate in line with best practice to provide community-based mental health care. Our model for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment meets the standards set by the independent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

We have established 15 military DCMHs across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas) to provide out-patient mental health care. The MOD's performance indicators require urgent cases to be seen within 24 hours and others within 20 working days of referral. The DCMHs function within these requirements and we are not aware of, nor would we expect there to be, any patients who had to wait in excess of six months for a referral.

It remains the case that medical discharge from the UK armed forces due to psychological illness is low. Out of almost 180,000 Regular Service personnel only about 150, or less than 0.1 per cent. are discharged annually for mental health reasons, whatever the cause. Of these, only 20 to 25 meet the criteria to be diagnosed with PTSD.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ranges of pay are for all ranks in the armed services. [144169]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) and the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) which are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the earliest age is at which a member of the armed services can receive a full pension; and if he will make a statement. [144274]

Derek Twigg: The expression 'full pension' is taken to mean a pension reflecting the maximum amount of reckonable service allowed under the pension scheme rules. As the majority of service personnel belong to either the armed forces pension scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) or the armed forces pension scheme 2005 (AFPS 05) my answer is in respect of those schemes.

Under AFPS 75 the most an officer can accrue is 34 years reckonable service from age 21 and, for another rank, the limit is 37 years reckonable service from age 18. The earliest that a full pension can be paid is age 55 and this full pension is worth 48.5 per cent. of representative pay.

Officers who leave having accrued at least 16 years reckonable service from age 21 under AFPS 75 and other ranks who leave having accrued at least 22 years from age 18 are entitled to a pension paid immediately upon discharge but this is a proportion of the full career pension. Those who leave with two or more years service but insufficient to qualify for this immediate pension are awarded a preserved pension payable at age 60 for service before 6 April 2006 and 65 for service after that date.

Under AFPS 05 the most that a member can accrue is 40 years reckonable service with no minimum age limit. The normal full pension entitlement is age 55. A full pension under AFPS 05 is worth just over 57 per cent. of final pensionable pay.

AFPS 05 members who leave before age 55 with two or more years reckonable service are entitled to a preserved pension payable at age 65. Those who have given at least 18 years reckonable service and attained age 40 are eligible for payments from the early departure payments scheme. Their pensions are preserved until age 65.

Finally, members of the armed forces do not typically serve to age 55 or beyond. In 2005-06 approximately 10 per cent. of officers and approximately 7 per cent. of other ranks served long enough to receive a full pension.

Armed Forces: Radio Frequency Identification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use is made of radio frequency identifiers by the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [145060]

Mr. Ingram: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is currently used by the armed forces solely in support of consignment tracking within the Joint Supply Chain.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recruited to *(a)* Phase One, *(b)* Phase Two and *(c)* Phase Three under the Army Recruiting and Training Division Statement of Training Requirement draft Man Plan in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [138744]

Derek Twigg *[pursuant to the reply, 4 June 2007, Official Report, c. 164W]:* The figure provided in the table for Input to Phase One in 2005-06 was incorrect and should have read 12,108. The following additional footnote should also have been provided:

Those who choose to join the Infantry complete a combined Phase One/Phase Two course called the Combat Infantry Course. They are shown in the Input to Phase One but as there is no separate entry to Phase Two they are not included in the Input to Phase Two figures.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of foreign armed forces received *(a)* training and *(b)* hospitality at UK military establishments in each year since 2001, broken down by (i) nationality and (ii) reason for providing the training; and whether agreements applied to the provision of the training. [143682]

Mr. Ingram: Since April 2001 22,307 members of foreign armed forces from 148 countries have received training at military establishments in the United Kingdom. All of these individuals will have received some form of hospitality offered by the training establishment, ranging from a simple welcoming reception to the provision of MOD service accommodation. This applies to all course places whether they are part or fully paid for by MOD, or whether the country in question pays for the training itself. The provision of training places is governed by various Memoranda of Understanding and agreements. The principal objective of this training activity is to use British Defence assets to discourage hostility abroad, build and maintain trust between states, and assist in

the development of democratically accountable armed forces; thereby helping to make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and resolution.

The breakdown of countries receiving training, the total numbers of students trained by financial year, and details of whether training is delivered under some form of agreement is tabulated as follows:

International defence training provided to overseas personnel since 2001

Country	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-to date*	*Agreement*[2]
Afghanistan				X	X	X	X	Yes
Albania	X	X	X	X	X			Yes
Algeria	X	—	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Angola	—	X	—	X	X	X	—	—
Antigua and Barbuda	—	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Argentina	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Armenia	—	X	—	X	X	X	—	—
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Austria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Azerbaijan	—	X	X	X	X	X	—	—
Bahamas	X	X	X	X	—	—	X	—
Bahrain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Bangladesh	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Barbados	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Belgium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Belize	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Bermuda	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	—
Bhutan	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	—
Bolivia	—	—	X	X	—	—	—	—
Bosnia-Herzegovina	—	—	X	—	—	X	—	—
Botswana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Brazil	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Brunei	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Bulgaria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Burundi	—	—	—	—	X	X	—	—
Canada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Chile	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
China	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Colombia	—	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Congo	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—
Cote D'Ivoire	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	—
Croatia	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Czech Republic	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Democratic Rep. Congo	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—
Denmark	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	X	X	—	—
Ecuador	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
Egypt	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Eritrea	—	—	—	X	—	X	—	—
Estonia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Ethiopia	—	X	X	X	X	X	—	—
Falkland Islands	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	—
Fiji	—	X	X	X	X	X	—	—
Finland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
France	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Gabon	—	—	—	—	X	X	—	—
Gambia	—	—	X	X	X	X	X	—
Georgia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Germany	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Ghana	X	X	—	X	X	X	X	Yes
Greece	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Grenada	—	X	—	—	—	—	—	Yes
Guatemala	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Guyana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	—
Honduras	—	X	X	—	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	Yes
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes

International defence training provided to overseas personnel since 2001

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-to date	Agreements[2]
Iceland	X	–	–	X	X	X	–	–
India	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Indonesia	–	–	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Iraq	–	–	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Israel	X	X	X	X	X	X	†	Yes
Italy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Jamaica	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Japan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Jordan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Kazakhstan	–	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Kenya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Korea	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	–
Kuwait	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Kyrgyzstan	X	X	X	–	X	–	–	Yes
Latvia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Lebanon	X	–	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Lesotho	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–
Libya	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	Yes
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Luxembourg	X	X	X	X	–	X	–	–
Macedonia	X	X	X	X	–	X	–	Yes
Malawi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Malaysia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Maldives	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	–
Malta	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Mauritania	–	X	–	–	–	–	X	–
Mauritius	–	X	X	X	–	X	–	–
Mexico	–	X	X	–	–	–	–	–
Moldova	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–
Mongolia	–	–	–	–	–	X	–	–
Morocco	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Mozambique	X	–	X	X	X	X	–	–
Namibia	–	X	X	–	X	X	X	Yes
NATO-Unspecified	–	–	–	–	X	X	–	Yes
Nepal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Netherlands	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Nigeria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Norway	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Oman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Pakistan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Palestine	–	–	–	–	X	X	X	–
Panama	–	–	–	–	X	–	–	–
Papua New Guinea	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–
Paraguay	X	X	–	–	–	–	–	–
Peru	X	–	–	X	X	X	–	–
Philippines	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–
Poland	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Portugal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Qatar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Republic of Ireland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Romania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Russia	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–
Rwanda	X	–	–	–	X	X	X	–
Saudi Arabia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Senegal	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–
Serbia and Mont. (Inc. Kosovo)	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Seychelles	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	–
Sierra Leone	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Slovakia	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
Slovenia	X	X	X	X	X	X	–	Yes
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Spain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes

International defence training provided to overseas personnel since 2001

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-to-date	Agreements[2]
Sri Lanka	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
St. Kitts and Nevis	—	—	X	—	X	—	—	Yes
St. Lucia	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	Yes
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	X	—	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Sudan	—	—	—	X	—	X	X	—
Swaziland	—	—	X	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Switzerland	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Syria	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	—
Tajikistan	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	—
Tanzania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	—
Thailand	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Tonga	—	—	—	X	X	X	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Tunisia	—	—	X	X	X	X	—	Yes
Turkey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Turkmenistan	—	—	—	X	—	—	—	—
Uganda	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Ukraine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
United Arab Emirates	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
USA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Uruguay	X	—	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Uzbekistan	—	X	X	X	—	—	—	—
Venezuela	—	—	—	X	X	—	—	—
Vietnam	—	X	—	X	X	X	—	Yes
Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	Yes
West Indies-Unspecified	—	—	—	—	X	X	—	—
Yemen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes
Zambia	—	—	X	X	X	X	X	—
Totals	3,242	3,456	4,702	3,361	3,243	3,549	762	—
Total all years								22,307

[1] 2005-06 records may include countries invited on courses but not attending (change of database).
[2] Agreements encompass both informal understandings and written agreements.
X = indicates forces personnel from that country attended training at UK military establishments.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the University Officer Training Corps have on leaving university signed up as *(a)* regulars and *(b)* territorials and have then served on a tour of operation in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [145107]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally. Officials are investigating whether it is possible to provide the number of individuals from the University Officer Training Corps who sign up for the Regular and Territorial Army on leaving university and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House. I will write to the hon. Member when investigations have concluded.

Army Base Repair Organisation: Bovington

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much it will cost to demolish the main building at the Armour Centre at Bovington; [143814]

(2) what the cost is of the proposed new building at the Armour Centre, Bovington to replace the one to be demolished; and what method of financing the work will be used. [143815]

Derek Twigg: The MOD's Project Single Living Accommodation Modernisation Prime Contractor will shortly seek competitive quotes for the demolition of the 1930's "Sandhurst" block (B44) at Bovington. However, we anticipate that the cost of this work will be in the region of £1 million.

The estimated construction cost of the proposed new Single Living Accommodation at Bovington, which will deliver 312 bedspaces, to replace the demolished building, is between £13.6 million and £14.7 million. This work is due to be completed by March 2009 and will be financed as part of the Core Works of Project SLAM.

Army Board

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been in the last 12 months of answering questions tabled by the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) on the running costs of the offices and official residences of members of the Army Board and other senior Army officers; and if he will estimate the number of man hours which have been spent on this task. [143049]

Derek Twigg: We do not maintain precise records of the cost or the number of man hours involved in responding to specific questions. However, the main effort in answering the relevant questions involved a team of one senior and six junior officials who have devoted roughly 50 per cent. of their time to this task

since 31 January. This equates to approximately £40,000, which falls within the disproportionate cost limit.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many internal flights were taken by the Ministerial members of the Army Board in 2006; how many of these flights were with *(a)* military and *(b)* commercial carriers; and what the cost was of each flight. [143321]

Derek Twigg: Ministerial members of the Army Board undertook 25 internal flights with military carriers and 27 internal flights with commercial carriers in 2006. The cost of each internal flight is shown in the following table.

Defence Minister	*Military flight (£)*	*Commercial flights (£)*
Secretary of State	4,198.11	317
	2,345.99	163
	1,938.76	317
	1,605.15	317
	4,543.00	317
	4,824.84	158
	578.98	411
	4,052.86	411
	—	159
	—	158
	—	195
	—	158
	—	237
	—	237
	—	114
	—	122
	—	159
	—	158
Minister for the Armed Forces	3,280.89	297.24
	237.94	240.10
	—	175.40
	—	243.20
	—	138.98
	—	143.40
Minster for Defence Equipment and Support (former Defence Procurement)	3,986.82	490
	3,333.77	734
	4,631.85	—
	1,929.94	—
	2,508.93	—
	2,894.91	—
	1,929.93	—
	1,930	—
Under-Secretary of State	1,534.84	227.20
	2,261.87	—
	1,929.94	—
	2,894.91	—
	4,824.84	—
	1,666.66	—
	2,300	—

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the offices of non-ministerial members of the Army Board are making to the savings outlined for his Department in the Gershon Review. [135613]

Derek Twigg: None. The Department's efficiency programme in response to the Gershon Review is made up of a small number of high value initiatives.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the costs of running the households of non-ministerial members of the Army Board were included in considerations of possible cost savings under the Gershon Review. [135614]

Derek Twigg: No. The Department's efficiency programme in response to the Gershon Review is made up of a small number of high value initiatives.

Army Board: Flowers

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure was on flowers for the residential accommodation provided for *(a)* members of the Army Board, *(b)* the Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* the Assistant Chief of the General Staff and *(d)* the Adjutant-General in 2006. [128818]

Derek Twigg: Of the 12 members of the Army Board, four have Official Service Residences (OSR): the Chief of the General Staff, Commander in Chief Land, the Adjutant-General, and the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. Flowers can be provided only for OSRs as part of the cost of official entertainment.

There is no requirement to hold information regarding official entertainment costs to the level of detail that would allow the cost of flowers to be identified, and the information requested is not therefore available for the Chief of the General Staff and the Commander in Chief Land. For the Adjutant General expenditure on flowers was £72.12 and for the General Officer Commanding (Northern Ireland) it was £190 during 2006.

Army Board: Pollution Control

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the *(a)* Army Board, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* Assistant Chief of the General Staff and *(d)* Adjutant-General. [128817]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has environmental policies, procedures and targets in place to quantify and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. Examples include travel avoidance, reducing energy use in buildings and improved building standards. These arrangements apply to all non-operational defence activity, including that of the Army Board.

Army: Administration

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Army General Administrative Instruction 48. [144559]

Derek Twigg: Yes. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in developing a Space Based Infra-Red System *(a)* for the United Kingdom and *(b)* in collaboration with the United States. [145391]

Des Browne: The Space Based Infra Red System is a US programme with no involvement by the UK.

Combat Stress: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding Combat Stress received from his Department in each of the last five years; and what funding is expected to be provided in each of the next three years. [145207]

Derek Twigg: For MOD expenditure from 2001 to 2006 in respect of individual remedial treatment of qualifying war pensioners at Combat Stress Homes in England, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 933W, to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie). MOD expenditure to Combat Stress for 2006-07 was £2.5 million.

Separate funding is provided from NHS Scotland for war pensioners' treatment at Hollybush House.

With regard to future funding I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 621W, to my hon. Friend the Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Ms Clark).

Corsham Railway Station

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the construction of a railway station at Corsham to service the military base there. [143334]

Mr. Ingram: The MOD supports the reopening of the Corsham railway station. The Inteq consortium, which is the preferred bidder for the Corsham Development Project, has reflected this in its planning application to the North Wiltshire district council.

However, both the MOD and Inteq recognise that this is primarily a matter for the railway authorities to determine.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he expects the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency site at Colchester to be used for after its closure; and if he will make a statement. [142014]

Mr. Ingram: No decision has yet been made on the use of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency site at Colchester, ownership of which is expected to transfer across to Colchester Garrison at the end of March 2008.

Defence: Corruption

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has been informed of any breaches of UK anti-corruption and anti-bribery regulations in relation to UK defence sales since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [143090]

Des Browne: There have been no convictions for breaches of UK anti-corruption and anti-bribery regulations in relation to UK defence sales since May 1997.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on procurement of each of the systems purchased by each Service in each of the last five years. [125146]

Mr. Ingram: After clarification that the question referred to large new equipment projects undertaken by the Defence Procurement Agency, the following table is provided based on capital expenditure incurred after the main investment decision has been taken including conflict prevention. While we do not collect costs on a Service basis, we have indicated in the table the relevant Service for the major projects listed. It has not been possible to show costs prior to Financial Year 2003-04 as this data is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DPA capital expenditure for four years by project

£ million

Description	*Service*	*Financial year* 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	*Grand total*
Typhoon	Air	694	854	953	1,028	3,529
T45	Fleet	554	596	508	536	2,194
Bowman	Tri-Service	297	517	499	234	1,547
Astute Class Submarines	Fleet	351	350	458	399	1,558

DPA capital expenditure for four years by project

£ million

Description	Service	Financial year 2003-04	2004-05	2005-05	2006-07	Grand total
Nimrod MRA4	Air	345	355	232	214	1,146
Future Joint Combat Aircraft	Air	120	135	388	217	860
Astor	Air	116	61	101	57	335
LSDA	Fleet	125	73	53	76	327
Projects with spend less than £325 million over the four years	—	1,793	1,781	2,192	2,770	8,536
Total expenditure	—	4,395	4,722	5,384	5,531	20,032

Departments: BAE Systems

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* logistical and *(b)* other support his Department provides to BAE Systems for its involvement with US industrial partners in the development of missile defence technology; [145026]

(2) what *(a)* logistical and *(b)* other support his Department provides to BAE systems for its involvement with US industrial partners in contributing to the development of missile defence technology. [145390]

Des Browne: Through its participation in the UK Missile Defence Centre the Department provides assistance and advice to UK industry (including BAE Systems) in expanding their involvement in the US missile defence programme. No logistical support is provided to BAE Systems in this area of work.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Rolls Royce and his Department in each of the last five years; [144421]

(2) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Smiths Group and his Department in each of the last five years; [144422]

(3) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Cobham Group and his Department in each of the last five years; [144423]

(4) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Hampson Industries and his Department in each of the last five years; [144424]

(5) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Meggitt and his Department in each of the last five years; [144425]

(6) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between UMECO plc and his Department in each of the last five years; [144426]

(7) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Ultra Electronics and his Department in each of the last five years; [144427]

(8) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Chemring Group plc and his Department in each of the last five years; [144428]

(9) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between VT Group and his Department in each of the last five years; [144429]

(10) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between QinetiQ Group and his Department in each of the last five year; [144430]

(11) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between Thales and his Department in each of the last five years; [144453]

(12) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between EADS and his Department in each of the last five year; [144454]

(13) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between GKN plc and his Department in each of the last five years; [144455]

(14) what defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and GKN plc; what is being purchased by his Department under each; and how much each contract is worth; [144456]

(15) what defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Thales; what is being purchased by his Department under each; and how much each contract is worth; [144457]

(16) what defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and EADS; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144458]

(17) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and *(a)* Chemring Group, *(b)* Cobham and *(c)* Hampson Industries; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and what the value is of each contract; [144588]

(18) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Umeco; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144600]

(19) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Rolls Royce; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144601]

(20) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and QinetiQ Group; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144602]

(21) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Meggitt; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144603]

(22) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Ultra Electronics; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144604]

(23) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and Smiths Group; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth; [144605]

(24) which defence procurement contracts are in operation between his Department and VT Group; what is being purchased by his Department in each case; and how much each contract is worth. [144630]

Mr. Ingram: According to central records the number and total value of direct contracts the Ministry of Defence has with each supplier is shown in the following table:

Organisation	*Number of contracts*	*Value (£ million)*
Rolls Royce plc	211	4,422,939
Smiths Group	90	130,464
Cobham	108	602,082
Meggitt	56	64,318
Ultra Electronics	95	465,784
Chemring Group	24	59,424
VT Group	68	1,586,867
QinetiQ	779	5,117,847
Thales	408	3,689,000
EADS	48	489,520
GKN	22	8,460

Central records do not contain any information in respect of direct MOD contracts with Hampson Industries and Umeco.

The precise value of each contract is commercially confidential but the approximate value of each contract is indicated in an extensive table which I have placed in the Library of the House. The number excludes small-value local purchase orders, contracts placed on behalf of other nations and other Government Departments and those where the suppliers are a subcontractor or a member of an industry consortium. The total cost to the public purse of each contract in each of the past five years is also commercially confidential. However, the scale of total payments made to the major divisions of each supplier, over the past five financial years on all direct contracts, as published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency, is shown as follows.

£ million

Organisation	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Rolls Royce plc	Over 250	Over 250	250-500	100-250	100-250
Rolls-Royce Marine Power Operations Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	5-10	5-10
Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	100-250	100-250
Smiths Aerospace Ltd.	10-25	10-25	10-25	10-25	10-25
Smiths Detection-Watford Ltd.	[1]—	5-10	10-25	[1]—	5-10
Cobham plc	50-100	50-100	50-100	[1]—	[1]—
Cobham Fluid Systems Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	[1]—	[1]—
Hampson Industries	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Meggitt Holdings plc	5-10	5-10	10-25	[1]—	[1]—
Meggitt (UK) Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	5-10
UMECO	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Ultra Electronic Holdings plc	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50
Chemring Group plc	5-10	5-10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Vosper Thornycroft Holdings Ltd.	25-50	25-50	25-50	[1]—	[1]—
VT Aerospace	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50	25-50
VT Services	25-50	25-50	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
VT Integrated Services Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	25-50	25-50	25-50
VT Maritime Affairs Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	10-25	[1]—	10-25
VT Halmatic Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	10-25	10-25
VT Merlin Communications Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	10-25	10-25
QinetiQ Ltd.	Over 250	Over 500	Over 500	Over 500	Over 500
Thales Air Defence Ltd.	50-100	50-100	50-100	50-100	50-100
Thales Defence Ltd.	50-100	50-100	50-100	50-100	[1]—
Thales Optronics Ltd.	25-50	25-50	25-50	50-100	50-100
Thales Underwater Systems Ltd.	25-50	50-100	50-100	50-100	50-100
Thales Avionics Ltd.	10-25	25-50	10-25	5-10	5-10
Thales Communications Ltd.	10-25	10-25	25-50	10-25	10-25
Thales Training and Simulation Ltd.	10-25	10-25	5-10	5-10	5-10
Thales Missile Electronics Ltd.	5-10	10-25	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Thales Naval Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	10-25	25-50	10-25
Thales Training and Simulation (Merlin) Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	10-25	10-25	10-25
Thales Training and Simulation (ACE) Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	10-25	5-10	5-10
Thales UK Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	100-250
EADS Defence Systems and Electronics (UK) Ltd.	5-10	[1]—	10-25	5-10	5-10
EADS Defence Systems	[1]—	5-10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
EADS Astrium Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	5-10	5-10	[1]—
EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd.	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	50-100	25-50
Eurocopter	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	25-50	10-25
EADS Deutschland GmbH	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	10-25	[1]—
GKN plc	50-100	25-50	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Indicates either that payments were under £5 million for the year or that certain divisions of some of the companies might not have existed at the time.

The MOD principally purchases power systems for land, sea and air applications from Rolls Royce. This includes: aero engines for combat, light attack, trainer, transport, helicopters, maritime reconnaissance and aerial surveillance aircraft; gas turbines for surface marine propulsion and nuclear propulsion for the Royal Navy's submarine fleet; fully integrated power systems including design and integration, ship control

and instrumentation, procurement and equipment supply, installation and commissioning, integrated logistics and platform support.

The MOD principally purchases chemical, radiation, biological and nuclear detection systems from Smiths Group (following the sale of Smiths Aerospace to General Electric). This includes the supply and refurbishment of chemical agent detectors, lightweight chemical agent detectors, man portable chemical agent detectors, chemical detectors and Otto fuel monitors.

The MOD principally purchases equipment and specialised systems for air applications from Cobham. This includes aircraft antennas, communications, navigation and air refuelling equipment (including drogues and receptors), and stores carriage and release. The company also operates, maintains and modifies aircraft for military training and special operations.

Meggitt provides airframe and engine diagnostics, ammunition handling equipment and elastomeric ducting systems for the MOD.

The MOD principally purchases electronic and electromechanical systems that include high integrity sensing, control, communication and display systems, with an emphasis on integrated information technology solutions, from Ultra Electronics.

Chemring provides specialist decoy countermeasures, energetic materials and products (including demolition materials and services) for the MOD.

The MOD purchases land, sea and air applications from VT Group. This also includes tri-service support, training, platform and equipment manufacture, maintenance and facilities management. VT Communications provides Very low frequency received signal and high frequency communications services to the MOD. They also provide electronic control systems for naval and commercial vessels, equipment for motion control, stabilisation, navigation and propulsion systems.

QinetiQ provides a broad range of services to the UK MOD. QinetiQ owns and manages large scale test and trials facilities and provides managed services of strategic importance to MOD. It carries out more than half of the applied research and the strategic research funded centrally by the MOD and provides support to the MOD on equipment procurement. QinetiQ is involved in almost all major MOD programmes, helping to minimise and then manage technical risk and providing impartial assessment, test and evaluation services.

Thales provides a broad range of services to the MOD including land, sea and air applications. These include helicopter avionics, communications, radar, cockpit integration, surveillance, missile design and electronics, early warning, air command and control, naval design and sonar systems, integrated command, control, computers, communications and intelligence, thermal imaging, fire control and communications, military training, consultancy, simulation, network security and cryptography.

EADS provides military aircraft, including special mission aircraft, helicopters and undertakes civil and military aircraft conversion to the MOD. It also provides missiles systems and defence electronics, satellites and orbital infrastructures and launchers.

GKN provides aerospace special products, including cabin and cock-pit windows, fuel tanks and fuel tank assemblies to the MOD.

Information on precisely what equipment the MOD is purchasing from each of the 1,909 contracts could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Corsham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of motor transport journeys made by military personnel from Corsham to Chippenham station in the last 12 months. [144239]

Derek Twigg: A survey of journeys undertaken by motor transport vehicles conveying military and civil service personnel from the Corsham defence estate to Chippenham railway station in the last 12 months indicates a daily average of six return journeys with passenger numbers ranging from one to eight, or approximately 1,560 journeys over a 12-month period.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rail warrants were issued to his Department's personnel based in Corsham in each of those years for which records are available; for which journeys; and to what value. [144238]

Derek Twigg: The number of rail warrants issued by the travel office of the Joint Support Unit Corsham which provides logistical support to the MOD's Corsham-based organisations is as follows:

	Number
2004	3,402
2005	4,165
2006	4,969
2007	[1]2,025

[1] To week ending 22 June.

These warrants relate to journeys commenced at Bristol, Bath, Chippenham and Swindon railway stations. A further average of 10 warrants per week is issued for journeys commencing at other railway stations in the United Kingdom.

The average cost per ticket is £179.50 on extant ticket prices. Typically more than 70 per cent. of the tickets are issued for travel from Chippenham railway station.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military, *(b)* contractor and *(c)* consultant staff are based at each of his Department's stations in Corsham. [144240]

Derek Twigg: The total number of staff at the Corsham estate is 1,938.

The distribution and breakdown of staff (including civilians) across the estate is as follows:

	Copenacre	*Basil Hill*	*Rudloe*	*Media Park*	*Hawthorn*
Military	168	315	25	8	20
Civilian	413	300	159	114	12
Consultant	22	7	2	0	0
Contractors	104	100	0	0	169
Total	707	722	186	122	201

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what transport mechanisms he expects employees to travel to and from his Department's sites in Corsham; what account he has taken of the environmental impacts of that travel; and if he will make a statement. [144734]

Derek Twigg: Due to the rural nature of the location and the widespread home locations of staff, emphasis is placed on reducing the number of single occupancy vehicles from the present 82 per cent. to 64 per cent. by 2011 and 48 per cent. by 2013 by operating car-sharing. In addition, the local MOD Travel Plan Co-ordinator will be working with other transport operators to provide bus and train services closer to the Corsham sites.

The environmental impact of these changes will be to reduce the number of cars travelling to and from the site from the present 1,800 (including visitors) to a maximum of 1,300.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish an updated version of his Department's technical note on efficiency. [145604]

Mr. Ingram: There is no intention to publish an updated version of the MOD's Efficiency Technical Note which was published on the Department's website in December 2005.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144935]

Derek Twigg: Light bulbs for general use on the Defence estate are procured by contractors on MOD's behalf. Information on the proportion of the various types purchased is not held centrally but Departmental policy requires suppliers procuring goods on MOD's behalf to consider environmental standards and use products which are known to have a lower environmental impact.

Figures are however, available for energy saving light bulbs provided for operational requirements:

11,800 purchased 2005

2,510 purchased 2006

The 2005 figure covered the initial purchase of these items and is higher than that for 2006 which covered our replenishment needs.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144471]

Des Browne: Comprehensive records of Memoranda of Understanding are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, it is estimated that there are in the region of £3,000 Memoranda of Understanding and similar arrangements relating to international defence co-operation in force at present. These cover all aspects of international defence co-operation, such as detailing the general arrangements for co-operation, the organisation of deploying on, and hosting of, international training and exercises, the exchange of personnel and units, equipment and research collaboration and the protection of classified information. Details of individual defence co-operation Memoranda of Understanding are not normally released into the public domain without the consent of participating countries.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143887]

Derek Twigg: It is Ministry of Defence policy that all staff can request to work flexibly to maintain a work life balance. All requests must be considered and alternative working patterns, including home working, are open to all staff if the business needs can be met. The agreements are either made locally between the individuals and their line managers and funding to provide equipment to work at home is also authorised locally. No central register of home workers exists and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Malvern

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was received from the sale of North Site in Malvern, Worcestershire. [144996]

Derek Twigg: The sale was completed in February 2005 and a receipt of £15 million was received for the site with the potential for further payments to follow.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143892]

Derek Twigg: The following tables give details of civilian personnel recruited to the Ministry of Defence on a permanent or temporary contract in each of the last three financial years.

Ministry of Defence[1]: Civilian Inflow by Gender, Disability and Age

Headcount

Financial Year 2004-05

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled[2]*	*Staff aged 55 and over*
Temporary (casual) part-time	80	240	[3]—	50
Temporary (casual) full-time	1,030	940	10	120
Permanent part-time	140	500	10	60
Permanent full-time	4,240	2,160	60	670
Total	5,490	3,840	80	900

Headcount

Financial Year 2005-06

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled[2]*	*Staff aged 55 and over*
Temporary (casual) part-time	70	180	[3]—	40
Temporary (casual) full-time	860	820	10	110
Permanent part-time	80	340	[3]—	60
Permanent full-time	2,620	1,210	20	360
Total	3,640	2,550	40	570

Headcount

Financial Year 2006-07

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled[2]*	*Staff aged 55 and over*
Temporary (casual) part-time	70	170	[3]—	50
Temporary (casual) full-time	830	720	10	110
Permanent part-time	90	350	[3]—	70
Permanent full-time	2,340	1,030	20	350
Total	3,330	2,270	30	570

[1] This includes industrial and non-industrial staff employed by the Ministry of Defence and Trading Funds, but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and locally engaged civilians.
[2] All disability data are self declared by employees.
[3] Denotes less than 10. *Note:* Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
Source:
DASA (Civilian).

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143909]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is set out as follows:

Ministry of Defence : gender, disability and age: 1 April 2007

Percentage

Male	63.9
Female	36.1
Percentage disabled	5.5
Percentage of staff aged 55+	22.1

Notes:
1. This includes industrial and non-industrial staff employed by the Ministry of Defence and Trading Funds, but excludes Royal Fleet auxiliaries and locally engaged staff.
2. Disabled personnel as a percentage of total (exe unknown).
3. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
Source:
DASA(Civilian)

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144621]

Derek Twigg: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 488W and 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 936W, to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps).

Departments: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current rate of employer contribution is to each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility; what the revenue impact would be of capping the employer contribution to each such scheme at 14 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [144299]

Derek Twigg: The employer contribution rate for the main armed forces pension schemes is currently 24.8 per cent. of the total pay-bill or 25.6 per cent. of pensionable pay.

The armed forces pension schemes are non contributory for employees and there is no employers cap on the scheme therefore the issue of a revenue impact resulting from a 14 per cent. cap is theoretical and would incur disproportionate costs to calculate.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143799]

Mr. Ingram: Central records indicate that the Ministry of Defence had six directly placed contracts with Remploy that remained extant at some time during the last 12 months. They related to services and products involving the manufacture and supply of combat clothing (including nuclear biological and chemical suits, headover and inner-knitted overalls). The value and costs of each contract are commercially confidential. However, the value band of each contract is indicated in the following table:

Category	Contract date	Contract number
Below £100,000	31 January 2007	S&ADC/6758
£5,000,000 to £10,000,000	11 August 2005	DC1AESL/0237
£5,000,000 to £10,000,000	13 April 2004	DC1AESL/0127
£100,000 to £500,000	29 March 2004	DC1AESL/0111
Below £100,000	5 January 2004	COMM3A/4071
£100,000 to £500,000	2 July 1998	SMC11CR/6340

Departments: Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of JSP 462, Financial Management Policy Manual. [145206]

Mr. Ingram: Yes.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143059]

Derek Twigg: The rates of worker sickness absence for non-industrial and industrial civil servants in the Ministry of Defence 2005, 2006 and financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

	Sickness absence rate[1]		
	Non industrial	*Industrial*	*Combined*
2005[2]	8.55	12.54	9.30
2006[2]	8.04	12.14	8.82
2006-07[2]	8.03	12.22	8.82

[1] Sickness absence rates are based on FTE working days lost. For example, if a full-time employee is sick for seven calendar days, this is five working days lost and five FTE working days lost, and if a part-time employee (working 50 per cent. full-time hours) is sick for seven calendar days, this is five working days lost and two and a half FTE working days lost.

[2] Excludes Ministry of Defence staff in Trading Funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

Rates listed are based on a revised Cabinet Office definition for sickness absence which excludes annual leave allowance and bank holidays, and caps FTE sickness absence days across a year to a maximum of 225 days. Recording of absence data against this revised definition has only been carried out since calendar year 2005.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142491]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 13 June 2007]:* The Department is continually seeking to improve and enhance its web content. MOD is currently considering the report of an accessibility assessment of www.mod.uk against the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The guidelines do not require BSL videos, but the feasibility of providing them on the departmental website will be assessed.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of veterans who left the services prior to 1 April 1975 who are eligible to be awarded the Veterans Badge; and how many such veterans have been awarded the badge. [143672]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not have the information required to make an accurate assessment of the number of people entitled to the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge prior to 1 April 1975. However, it is estimated that the total number of all veterans who will be eligible to apply is around five million.

Over 460,000 badges have been issued in total.

Falkland Islands: Armed Conflict

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges have been issued to servicemen and women who participated in the Falklands campaign. [145006]

Mr. Ingram: The information on veterans' badges is not held in a format that identifies how many servicemen and women who participated in the Falklands campaign have been issued with a badge. However, I can confirm that 3,015 badges were issued to Falklands veterans who applied for tickets for the Horse Guards Commemorative event on 17 June 2007.

Future Command and Liaison Vehicle

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on progress of the Panther programme; [144730]

(2) what the planned expenditure is on the Panther programme. [144731]

Mr. Ingram: The PANTHER Command and Liaison Vehicle is currently in its demonstration and manufacture phase. The estimated cost of this phase is £201 million and prior to this, the assessment phase was conducted, costing some £2 million. PANTHER has successfully completed Military User Trials and is currently undergoing Reliability Trials.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timescale is for the A400M programme. [144732]

Mr. Ingram: The first aircraft is due to be delivered in 2010, and the planned in-service date is 2011 (delivery of the seventh aircraft).

Iraq Conflict

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the studies *(a)* TELIC

Civilian Health Study, *(b)* High Risk Behaviours After Operational Deployments (TELIC), *(c)* Use of Computer-based Treatment for Depression and *(d)* Post-discharge Mentoring of Vulnerable Service Leavers; and if he will place a copy of each in the Library. [142099]

Derek Twigg: Three of the studies are being undertaken by the King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR). The current status of each is as follows:

TELIC Civilian Health Study—the study is under way, and is currently scheduled for completion later in 2007.

High Risk Behaviours after Operational Deployments (TELIC)—the study is under way, and is currently scheduled for completion later in 2007.

Post-discharge Mentoring of Vulnerable Service Leavers—the study is complete and has been accepted for publication. It should be published later in 2007.

The fourth study, Use of Computer-based Treatment for Depression, was an individual study, initially proposed by a member of the Defence Medical Services. However, work has yet to commence.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many soldiers are in theatre in Iraq; and how many sets of body armour have been issued; [128844]

(2) if he will make a statement on the provision of body armour to the armed forces in Iraq; [128845]

(3) how many soldiers from 1 Battalion, The Rifles are deployed in Iraq; and how many sets of body armour have been issued to them. [128843]

Mr. Ingram: In March 2007 there were some 7,100 UK troops in Iraq which has reduced to currently some 5,500 personnel in theatre. There have been four members of the 1 Battalion, The Rifles deployed to Iraq since March 2007 of which three are still currently in Iraq. All of the troops serving with the Rifles Battalion are issued with Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) which is standard issue to all troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. Improved Performance Body Armour (known as 'OSPREY') and Enhanced Personnel Protection Equipment (EPPE) (known as 'KESTREL') are provided in addition to ECBA and have been designed to protect against specific threats faced by personnel undertaking certain roles. In total there are over 14,000 sets of body armour in theatre.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the replacement costs of military equipment damaged and destroyed owing to use in Iraq since the start of the war *(a)* in total and *(b)* for (i) tanks and other armoured vehicles, (ii) aircraft and (iii) helicopters. [141465]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methods have been used to decontaminate or dispose of protective clothing used by British military personnel who investigated the remains of Iraqi tanks or other military vehicles disabled by depleted uranium weapons used in the invasion of Iraq. [144357]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* Depleted uranium is a heavy metal used in some anti-armour munitions. While there is no appreciable radiation health risk, it can pose a toxic hazard through inhalation of ingestion of depleted uranium dust, or contamination of open wounds. This risk is relatively low and does not require individual protective clothing to be worn unless personnel are working in contaminated areas for a prolonged period. Advice provided on decontamination during combat operations was that clothing that may have been in contact with depleted uranium should have the dust brushed off in a controlled site while the individuals concerned were still wearing oral-nasal protection and gloves. Once brushed clean, the clothing was to be washed as normal. Thereafter clothing could be worn or disposed of locally as required.

Subsequent monitoring of several hundred UK troops has shown that this advice was effective. Tests have shown no detectable depleted uranium in anyone other than a very small number of troops injured directly by depleted uranium munitions.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the new in-service date set for the Joint Strike Fighter has had any effect on the plan B for the aircraft to be provided for the new aircraft carriers. [144383]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State in the other place on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column WA8. We will not be setting in-service dates for the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) until we take the main investment decision, and we will take that decision when the project is sufficiently mature. The Joint Strike Fighter remains our preferred solution to meet the JCA requirement and our current plans for JCA remain coherent with the CVF programme.

Marchwood Railway Station

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from what budget construction of the military railway station at Marchwood was funded. [143333]

Mr. Ingram: There is no military railway station at the Sea Mounting Centre at Marchwood. There are, however, facilities where freight can be unloaded by rail. As these were constructed in the 1940s, information relating to the construction costs incurred is no longer held by the Ministry of Defence.

Marines

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the establishment of the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines is. [145056]

Des Browne: The Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines (FPGRM) establishment is 33 officers and 504 other ranks.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all units of Royal Marines serving on Royal Navy frigates belong to the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines. [145057]

Des Browne: All Royal Marines serving on RN Frigates belong to the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines (FPGRM).

Marines: Terrorism

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines is tasked with maritime counter-terrorist duties. [145055]

Des Browne: The FLEET Protection Group Royal Marines is not tasked with maritime counter-terrorist duties.

Marines: Training

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specialist training Royal Marines serving with the Fleet Protection Group receive in *(a)* boarding, *(b)* counter-insurgency operations and *(c)* site protection. [145058]

Des Browne: The Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines (FPGRM) receive role specific training in order to allow them to conduct their mandated tasks.

(a) Boarding. Fleet Standby Rifle Troop boarding teams must pass a bespoke three-week course which includes close quarter battle training, first aid, fast roping, boarding techniques and boat drills. This is followed by continuation training courses in customs issues and board and search procedures. The course trains ranks in all the skills required to conduct compliant and non-compliant boardings.

(b) Counter-Insurgency Operations. Fleet Standby Rifle Troop Teams are trained to carry out their mandated tasks within a counter-insurgency environment. General training and theatre specific training is conducted within FPGRM. If the task includes operations on land, personnel also receive Operational Training and Advisory Group training.

(c) Site Protection. All Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines personnel are trained in site security. A minimum of five weeks dedicated training a year is undertaken. A minimum of six months in the site protection role is conducted prior to serving with the Fleet Standby Rifle Troop.

Navy

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the chain of command is for personnel of a boarding party deployed from a Royal Navy ship. [145059]

Des Browne: The Royal Marine Officer commands the boarding team during the boarding operation up to the point that the FLEET Protection Group Royal Marines team is inserted and the target vessel is secured. The Royal Navy Boarding Officer will then be handed tactical command for the search operations on the vessel. Both Officers, when in charge, are responsible to the Commanding Officer of the Ship.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigation was undertaken into the ruptured super-heated air pipe on Nimrod XV227 in November 2004; what conclusions were reached; and what steps have been taken in response. [142810]

Mr. Ingram: During a post flight check on Nimrod XV227 on 22 November 2004, it was discovered that a portion of Supplementary Cooling Pack ducting had failed. A unit inquiry was held which concluded that it was caused by pitting and cracking corrosion leading to failure. The unit inquiry made the following recommendations and the table identifies actions taken in response.

Recommendation	*Action taken*
The ruptured duct is replaced with new manufactured items on a fleet-wide basis as soon as possible.	Recommendation closed. All such ducts fitted to in-service aircraft have been replaced with newly manufactured items.
A lifing policy is introduced for the ruptured duct and all similar ducts.	See comments on maintenance policy recommendation. Action ongoing.
A maintenance policy should be instigated for the ruptured duct and all similar ducts.	A study into the need for a preventative maintenance/lifing policy for this and similar ducts has been concluded by the Designer (BAE Systems). Their report, which is due to be issued imminently, is based on the results of a detailed analysis of a sample of ducts taken from a number of MR2 aircraft. This analysis has taken time to complete, but the report is expected to recommend that a lifing policy be introduced. Ducts due for replacement would be replaced during scheduled maintenance activities and it is anticipated that such a duct replacement programme would be in place by December 2007. Action ongoing.
The extent of the hot air leak warning system is reviewed to ensure that all possible duct failures are covered.	Recommendation closed. A review of the aircraft warning systems revealed that the affected Supplementary Cooling Pack Duct was the only duct whose failure would not have been detected.
A hot air leak warning system is introduced for the ruptured duct and cross-air bleed ducts.	Recommendation rejected. The duct failure was an isolated incident and was in the only part of the system where a leak would not have been detected. All of these ducts have been replaced with newly manufactured items that, based upon the previous 25 fault-free years that the original duct had been fitted, are expected to last well beyond the planned MR2 Out of Service Date (early part of the next decade). Moreover, fitting a discrete hot air leak warning system would be a complex modification that would have to be embodied across the fleet during its maintenance cycle and therefore take several years to embody. Considering the Out of Service Date of the Nimrod MR2, the fitting of such a system was not considered to be practicable. Action closed.
This incident is highlighted as a training point for Air Engineers.	The incident was immediately publicised through the Air Engineer command chain at RAF Kinloss. Action closed.
The Aircrew Flight Reference Cards (FRC) regarding Supplementary Cooling Pack malfunctions are amended to reflect the information in the aircrew manuals.	Amendments were made to Aircrew Flight Reference Cards and Aircrew Manuals to reflect the incident. Action closed.

Tornado Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average total operating cost per hour is of the Tornado aircraft. [145102]

Mr. Ingram: The total cost per funded flying hour of the Tornado F3 and the Tornado GR4 is £40,440 and £32,680 respectively. This includes forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs and the cost of capital charge and depreciation.

Type 45 Destroyers: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for making a decision on whether to order the seventh and eighth Type-45 destroyer. [145842]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas).

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1671-72W, on unmanned aerial vehicles, how much each individual Desert Hawk mini UAV costs; whether UK armed forces have been or will be supplied with any other types of UAV other than Desert Hawk; and whether consideration has been given to the use of light or small propeller driven aircraft for use by the RAF or Army Air Corps for *(a)* surveillance or *(b)* close combat support. [142074]

Mr. Ingram: Desert Hawk is employed as a system consisting of eight air vehicles and the associated ground control station, communications and support equipment. The current variant costs approximately £0.4 million per system. A replacement air vehicle would cost in the region of £20,000.

UK armed forces have been supplied with the Phoenix tactical UAV system and the Desert Hawk and Buster mini UAV systems. Also, they will be supplied with Reaper (formally Predator B) and Hermes 450 UAV systems to meet urgent operational requirements. The Watchkeeper UAV system will meet the future tactical UAV requirement.

UK armed forces have some fairly small propeller-driven aircraft in service for surveillance and we keep our requirements for this type of capability under review. Such aircraft would be unlikely to meet our demanding requirements for close air support.

Warships

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days the eight active Type 42 destroyers were *(a)* at sea and *(b)* alongside in harbour in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) 2006. [141001]

Mr. Ingram: The information is not held centrally in the format requested. Taking the eight ships as a whole, the approximate percentage of time spent at sea for Type 42 destroyers over the last 12 months and for 2006 is 30 per cent. at sea and 70 per cent. in harbour.

Time spent in harbour includes both time spent alongside in the ship's home port and time spent alongside while deployed elsewhere.

The percentage figures allow for time spent in refit or maintenance periods.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to Question 125146, on procurement, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 28 February 2007; and what the reasons are for the delay. [144583]

Mr. Ingram: I replied to the hon. Member today. I apologise for the delay in replying which was due to an administrative error.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Biofuels

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress is being made in the development of biofuels from crops and from the breakdown of organic waste. [144208]

Malcolm Wicks: Currently, the major portion of biodiesel production in the UK comes from imported soya, palm and jatrophe oils, along with locally grown oilseed rape, with a smaller contribution from recycled waste vegetable oil and animal fats. Bioethanol is sourced primarily from imports. However, a number of companies have announced plans to increase production of biofuels, either by expansion of existing plants or through construction of new plants which will use UK grown crops such as sugar beet, wheat and oilseed rape as a feedstock. Such biofuel production plants are being stimulated by a mix of Road Fuel Duty reduction and the forthcoming Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. The Government are also keen to support "second generation" biofuels which use more advanced technologies and have the potential to use straw, wood and biodegradable waste as feedstocks and is supporting a number of projects through the Technology Programme in this area. However, the majority of these processes are currently not proven at commercial scale. There is also significant development of biofuels internationally.

Biofuels: Brazil

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to improve the relationship between biofuels producers in *(a)* the UK and the North East of England and *(b)* Brazil (i) to stimulate trade, (ii) to encourage innovation in the industry and (iii) to enhance competitive advantage for the two countries. [145021]

Mr. McCartney: Support for establishing partnerships in investment and trade in renewable energies, particularly ethanol, is one of the recommendations of the UK-Brazil

Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO). This clearly shows the importance we place on biofuels, and echoes industry's appetite for bilateral projects. UK banks, consultancy and advisory services companies are active and already doing business with Brazilian partners.

HMG maintains regular dialogue with Brazil, the European Commission, the International Energy Agency and others on ethanol production and trade. Regular discussions also take place between Commission officials about a possible EU-Mercosur trade agreement with regards to bioethanol.

There have been several recent events where Brazilian expertise has been presented to a UK audience to stimulate trade, investment and co-operation in biofuels, including the "Brazil: New Business Opportunities" event on 25 June 2007, organised by the Brazilian embassy in conjunction with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). This JETCO event will see a specific ethanol presentation by the Brazilian Mercantile and Futures Exchange (BM&F), followed by a biofuels workshop attended by the Brazilian Piracicaba Ethanol Cluster and the Brazilian Sugar Cane Industry Union. Over 80 UK companies are scheduled to attend.

There are no specific Government-led international initiatives specifically focused on biofuels for the NE, but UKTI NE region is running a trade mission to Brazil in February 2008 in which biofuels companies can participate.

Coastal Areas: Conferences

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what issues were discussed at the coastal towns conference on 8 May. [139696]

Margaret Hodge: The conference discussed a wide range of the issues facing coastal towns, in particular whether they share common characteristics. The main issues raised were the diversity among coastal towns, for instance in terms of size and industrial structure; the changing demands of the tourist trade, with movement towards shorter visits and increased business tourism, and the response of coastal towns to this; the importance of transport infrastructure and accessibility in attracting private investment and helping coastal towns realise their full potential; the negative effects of poor quality houses in multiple occupation, which are a feature in many coastal towns; and whether central Government and regional development agencies should adopt consistent policies and strategy for coastal towns as a group, or tailor them to individual circumstances.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145300]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The spend within the Department over the last three financial years through individual Government Procurement Cards is:

	£
2004-05	444,137.97
2005-06	1,605,545.50
2006-07	1,726,413.07

The spend to date (22 June 2007) in 2007-08 is £396,584.27.

The Department does not use credit or fuel cards.

The Department also has a corporate card with American Express which is a charge card used for additional travel expenses only. Liability on the card is jointly managed by staff as individuals and the Department.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following was spent on advertising by DTI and its agencies via the Central Office of Information in each of the last five full financial years. Details of any other expenditure by the DTI and its agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2002-03	
UK Online for Business 2002/03	3,393,124
Export Licence Announcements 2002/03	10,131
Import Licence Announcements 2002/03	88,685
DTI Miscellaneous 2002/03	21,000
UK Online for Business—Supplement 2002/03	153,384
SBS Business Link	5,395,254
Fireworks Campaign 2002/03—media only	181,966
National Minimum Wage 2002/03	299,443
SBS Recruitment Advertising	14,537
Parental Rights 2002/03	718,718
DTI Consumer Gateway 2002/03	74,887
Quality Mark 2002/03	779,817
Ex-Miners Compensation 2002/03	402,419
Total	11,533,365
2003-04	
Parental Rights 2003/04	1,106,186
Import Licence Announcements 2003/04	130,470
Ex Miner Compensation 2003/04	384,875
SBS Public Notice Advertising 2003/04	84,778
SBS Business Link 2003/04	882,188
DTI National Minimum Wage 2003/04	306,360
Quality Mark Scheme 2003/04	189,973
DTI EERA 13 2003/04	422,177
DTI UK Online for Business 2003/04	163,965
DTI Fireworks SMS Internet 2003/04	18,603
DTI UK Online for Business Internet 2003/04	230,914
DTI Consumer Gateway Internet 2003/04	37,686
UK Trade & Investment 2003/04	194,784
SBS Keyword 2003/04	20,799
ACAS Awareness 2003/04	1,070,601

	£
Total	5,244,359
2004-05	
Consumer Direct 2004/05	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004/05	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004/05	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising 2004/05	41,007
New Minimum Wage 2004/05	315,754
Renewable Energy 2004/05	15,542
Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2004/05	30,494
Firework Safety 04/05—(media only)	188,460
DTI—Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004/05	3,255
Total	2,009,800
2005-06	
Consumer Direct 2005/06	1,447,850
DTI Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2005/06	31,099
SBS Business Link 2005/06	1,502,301
New National Minimum Wage 2005/06	369,603
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise 2005/06	127,690
Total	3,478,543
2006-07	
Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006/07	581,424
DTI Classified Recruitment 2006/07	11,457
ACAS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006/07	228,949
Total	821,830

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145907]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI does not have a concordat with Northern Ireland Administration. The DTI does have a concordat with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland. This Department covers a similar range of functions to the DTI. A copy of this concordat is available on the DTI's website:

www.dti.gov.uk.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143097]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry awards non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

Special bonuses to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

Annual performance awards paid to highly successful performance as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available the number of staff receiving these awards, as a proportion of the total work force they represent, total amount of bonuses and the size of the single largest payment for which this information can be provided is in the following table.

Financial year 2006-07[1]

	Special bonuses	*Performance awards*	*Largest single payment of bonuses*
Number of staff receiving	919	1,286	—
Proportion of the workforce receiving (percentage)	20	29	—
Total value (£)	491,669	2,538,180	15,000

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

In 2006-07 the total value of bonuses paid was approximately 1.8 per cent. of the Department's total paybill.

The special bonuses and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's paybill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Over the past 12 months to the end of May 2007, the Department of Trade and Industry launched 57 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation, and the total cost of all consultations, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publications

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was of producing Overseas Trade magazine *(a)* before advertising revenues and *(b)* net of advertising revenues in each year for which information is available. [136541]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The position (excluding website) is recorded in the Official Journal of the European Union tender and contractual documents for the specified periods, and is as follows:

Cost period	*Gross cost before advertising revenues*	*Cost to UK Trade and Investment*
	£	£
30 June 2003-29 June 2004	[1]—	175,350
30 June 2004-29 June 2005	[1]—	161,390
30 June 2005-29 June 2006	[1]—	161,390
1 July 2006-30 June 2007[2]	[1]—	199,760

[1] Exemption claimed under Freedom of Information Act 2000 (section 43).

[2] Period subject to extension of up to 12 months not yet agreed.

Departments: Publicity

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was of the banners in the window of his Department's building at 1 Victoria Street. [144919]

Margaret Hodge: The cost excluding VAT of designing and producing these banners was £4,582.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following shows the average number of sick absence days per year in each of the last five years in DTI HQ:

Year ending 31 March:	*Sick absence days*
2007	5.7
2006	5.5
2005	5.7
2004	8.0
2003	7.0

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI commissions one annual survey of all DTI staff, as part of its internal communications, at a cost of around £20,000 a year.

Departments: Warwick Manufacturing Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what payments his Department has made to Warwick Manufacturing Group in each year since 1997. [141908]

Margaret Hodge: No payments have been made to Warwick Manufacturing Group direct. However the following payments have been made to Warwick university, of which it is part, and to Warwick Business School, also part of Warwick university:

	Warwick University	£ *Warwick Business School*
2002-03	93,570	—
2003-04	38,805	56,378
2004-05	—	50,062
2005-06	—	9,595
2006-07	—	—

The Department changed its financial system in 2003 and details of payments before then could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) and the university of Warwick are major assets to the West Midlands and play a significant role in attracting inward investment into the region. WMG, in particular, is one of many assets within the region which form an integral part of an overall regional proposition presented to knowledge-driven business. It is rarely possible however to attribute the success in securing an inward investment project to one single factor, as often it is the result of a combination of issues.

For example, the Airbus decision to establish a systems engineering centre for fuel and landing gear systems in Solihull in 2006 was based on a combination of factors, including skills availability, access to existing Airbus centres in both north-west and south-west England and potential engineering links to regional universities including Aston, Birmingham and Warwick. WMG was nevertheless one of a number of factors which persuaded Airbus to locate in the region.

Economic Situation: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will break down by area of investment the £211 billion private sector investment quoted in the North West Development Agency's Improving the Economic Performance of England's Northwest document dated February 2007. [140211]

Margaret Hodge: We believe that the figure in the question from the hon. Member should read £2.1 billion, not £211 billion.

Since 1999, the NWDA has levered the following private sector investment through its legacy programmes that includes the Single Regeneration Budget, and since 2002, the Single Programme:

	£
Legacy (1999-2002)	
Land and Property	461,000,000
Single Regeneration Budget	842,000,000
Rural Programmes	5,000,000
Inward Investment[1]	287,700,000
Total	1,595,700,000
Single Programme (2002-06)	
Business Growth	4,618,800
Urban, Rural and Economic Inclusion	527,161,338
Strategic transport, communications and infrastructure	16,600,000
Employment sites	15,259,290
Image	1,875,738
Total	565,515,166
Legacy and Single Programme Combined	2,161,215,166

[1] The Inward Investment data for 2002-03 onwards are subsumed into business growth.

The North West Development Agency did not categorise private sector investment by geographical area until 2003-04. The following table details the investment by area for 2003-04 to 2005-06.

Private Sector Investment by Area, 2003-04 to 2005-06

£

Area (of project)	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Cheshire	645,546	172,477,380	106,641,870
Cumbria	16,613,336	23,168,209	33,093,427
Greater Manchester	48,233,713	70,469,540	79,899,078
Greater Merseyside	30,356,623	27,909,442	10,865,009
Lancashire	9,529,750	13,633,523	23,500,740
Regional	2,357,333	2,711,671	2,765,139
Grand Total	107,736,301	310,369,765	256,765,263

Electric Cables: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what methodology was used by Ofgem to assess the Beauly Denny transmission line; and what account was taken of the grid reinforcement to accommodate intermittent generation, with particular reference to *(a)* the increase in capacity made available through the installation of equipment to permit operational intertripping and *(b)* the use of hydro-electricity as a balancing service when economically justified; [145182]

(2) what work was undertaken by Ofgem in assessing the Beauly Denny transmission line to compare the merits of the proposed line and the use of transmission capacity from North West Scotland on mainly existing transmission lines along the Beauly-Blackhillock-Kintore-Tealing route. [145186]

Mr. McCartney: Under the UK's energy market framework it is for the licensed transmission network companies to connect new generation to the electricity grid. It is a matter for Ofgem, the independent regulator, to ensure that any proposals for extensions to the existing system are economic and efficient. It is for the planning process to consider if proposed upgrades are acceptable. In Scotland, those planning decisions rest with Scottish Ministers.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many in-store take back schemes the Government expects to be set up as a result of the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [144916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive requires that distributors supplying electrical and electronic equipment to household end users provide facilities for WEEE to be returned free of charge. The UK's implementing regulations give distributors two options for meeting this obligation: they can offer in-store take back of old equipment when consumers buy a replacement item or they can join the Distributor Take back Scheme (DTS) which supports a network of primarily civic amenity site collection facilities where their customers can return their WEEE.

There is no requirement under the WEEE Regulations to maintain a register of distributors who provide in-store take back. Currently DTS membership represents some 75 per cent. of EEE retailing. Figures on the number of in-store take back schemes are not available.

Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans the Government has to sign partnerships with British industries to promote jobs for British citizens. [144965]

Margaret Hodge: The Government have no specific plans to sign partnerships to promote jobs for British citizens. The Department of Trade and Industry has a wide range of relationships with many sectors of the economy that address the challenges industry faces in light of increasing globalisation and that seek to improve competitiveness and create jobs. We have established a number of Innovation and Growth Teams in key sectors which provide a good example of the way in which we work with industry. We also work with inward investors to the UK who create employment. The working age employment rate remains close to the historic highs of recent years and is 1.6 percentage points higher than in April 1997.

Employment: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 903W, on employment: North West region, if he will break down by employer the number of jobs safeguarded or created under the urban, rural and economic inclusion heading. [145072]

Margaret Hodge: As stated in my response of 12 June, the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) does not collect information in the form requested and as such does not hold data by employer.

However, under the Regional Development Agency (RDA) Tasking Framework, introduced in April 2005, RDAs are required to disaggregate outputs by urban and rural area.

For 2005-06, the NRDA reported that 15,738 jobs were created or safeguarded, of which; 74 per cent. (11,588) were in urban areas and 26 per cent. (4,150) were in rural areas.

Further details of RDAs' end year outputs for 2005-06 can be found at:

http:/www.dti.gov.uk/regional/regional-dev-agencies/rda-performance/nage32498.html

Energy Supply: Biofuels

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the adaptability of the existing energy supply infrastructure to *(a)* biofuels from crops and from the breakdown of organic waste and *(b)* other more environmentally-friendly fuels. [144209]

Malcolm Wicks: The forthcoming Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation will require changes to the existing oil supply and distribution infrastructure as set out in various Regulatory Impact Assessments which accompanied the development of the RTFO. The oil industry is aware of and preparing for those changes.

Energy: Conservation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information his Department holds on the geographical distribution of spending under the energy efficiency commitment. [142825]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

For the first phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2002 to 2005 (EEC1) the regulator, Ofgem, which is responsible for administering the scheme, monitored the delivery of energy suppliers' schemes across England, Scotland and Wales. Under EEC1, 86 per cent. of energy savings were delivered in England and 7 per cent. each in Scotland and Wales.

Information is not available on EEC expenditure, which is a matter for the energy suppliers.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps have been taken to help individual homeowners to increase the energy efficiency of their homes; and what steps are being taken to incentivise such actions. [144207]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Warm Front scheme aims to improve energy efficiency in households in England through the provision of energy efficiency and heating measures to eligible households. Since its inception in 2000, Warm Front has assisted more than 1.4 million vulnerable households. Funding for the scheme for the 2005-08 period is over £800 million.

The Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) is an obligation on electricity and gas suppliers to meet targets for the promotion of improvements in household energy efficiency in Britain. During the first phase of the EEC (2002-05), suppliers installed a range of measures which helped an estimated 40 million households to improve their energy efficiency.

DEFRA funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST) for its work on promoting energy efficiency in the domestic sector through advertising programmes, advice centres and the endorsement of energy-saving products. The Trust also encourages local authorities to develop energy efficiency strategies.

DEFRA has also launched an online calculator that enables people to work out their carbon footprint. The calculator is part of DEFRA's "Act on CO_2" campaign which aims to make people aware of the link between their own everyday behaviour and climate change. The calculator covers three sections—home energy, appliances and personal transport—and can be used for an individual or a whole household. It also provides tailored recommendations through a personalised action plan, about what steps users can take to cut their own emissions.

DEFRA's Guide to Greener Living, and EST's accreditation of products under the "Energy Saving Recommended" label, also signpost consumers to products that save the most energy.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what discussions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive on safety issues surrounding the instalment and the wearing of wires of real time displays; [144754]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive on the safety issues surrounding the instalment and the wearing of wires of real time displays. [144752]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is in discussion with the Health Safety Executive about display devices. Early indications are that there are no safety concerns surrounding the installation of the devices, which are already available through retailers and some energy suppliers, but we will continue to discuss this issue with suppliers and the executive.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what consideration the Government have given to introducing smart meters with displays in May 2008 in time to meet the Energy Services Directive; [144755]

(2) what consideration the Government have given to introducing smart meters with displays in May 2008 in time to meet the Energy Services Directive. [144753]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Energy White Paper, the Government made clear their view that display devices could give gas and electricity customers information to help them make early reductions in their energy use. Further activity in respect of smart metering is being undertaken by the Government, in partnership with gas and electricity suppliers. In setting out their White Paper proposals on display devices, the Government indicated that they would consult on the implementation of these proposals in the context of their ambitions to see a roll-out of smart meters within 10 years.

Export Credit Guarantees: Burma

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much debt is owed to UK companies by Burma; in relation to which *(a)* companies and *(b)* projects the Export Credits Guarantee Department has taken over this debt; and in each case when the guarantees were given. [145338]

Mr. McCartney: The amount owed by Burma to UK companies in respect of defaulted export contracts insured or guaranteed by the ECGD is £22.9 million. The ECGD has subrogated rights to recoveries.

Contracts for which the ECGD provided 100 per cent. guarantees for the related financing loans given by the National Westminster Bank are as follows:

John Brown Engineering/Government of Burma Electric Power Enterprise: One loan signed in 1979 and two in 1982;

Bonar Cruickshank Power Engineering/Government of Burma Electric Power Enterprise: Loan signed 1986; and

James Mackie and Sons/Myanmar Textile Industries: Loan signed 1980.

The ECGD also insured two export contracts with Myanmar Textile Industries and the Inland Water Transport Corporation where the outstanding debt is £1.8 million. The policies were issued in 1980 and 1983. Owing to commercial confidentiality undertakings in insurance policies, the ECGD would need to notify those companies before disclosing their names.

Farmers: Bankruptcy

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what proportion of farmers were declared bankrupt in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [144231]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The closest available estimates for bankruptcies among farmers are the numbers of bankruptcy orders made under the category "agriculture and horticulture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC). The table provides the figures for England and Wales, which are available from 1990 onwards.

Bankruptcies in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the devolved administrations and, while total bankruptcies could be provided, a breakdown by industry is not available.

Bankruptcy statistics are classified regionally according to the locations and areas of responsibility of official receivers' (ORs) offices, each of which covers a number of courts having insolvency jurisdiction, and are not directly comparable with administrative geographies. Statistics broken down both by industry and regionally are not readily available for the period requested.

The Insolvency Trade Classification is not consistent with the Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC2003) which is used to classify businesses, nor is the regional classification in use consistent with standard administrative geographies such as counties and Government office regions (GORs). It is not, therefore, possible to provide reliable estimates of the proportions of farmers becoming bankrupt, either at the regional or national level.

Bankruptcies in England and Wales in the Agriculture sector, January 1990 September 2006:

	Bankruptcy orders in agriculture sector (E and W)
1990	198
1991	266
1992	313
1993	277
1994	231
1995	218
1996	168
1997	155
1998	157
1999	183
2000	173
2001	183
2002	132
2003	151
2004	204
2005	195
2006 (up to September)[1]	129

[1] Figures from October 2006 are not available due to development work to update the classification of new cases to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003.

Note:
Figures are not available prior to January 1990.

Lighting: Prices

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what additional cost he expects to be added to the retail price of *(a)* traditional incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* energy-saving light bulbs as a result of the implementation of the Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [144915]

Malcolm Wicks: Incandescent light bulbs are not subject to the provisions of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, but energy-efficient light bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs, are. According to industry estimate it cost 20-25 pence to teat a fluorescent bulb. This treatment cost information appeared in the Regulatory Impact Assessment issued alongside the WEEE Regulations.

Ultimately it will be for the lamp industry to ensure that they remain priced at a reasonable level.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date he expects the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to be relaunched. [136970]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was relaunched on 29 May 2007.

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what scientific representation there is for the National Institute for Medical Research on the working party of the Medical Research Council deciding on its future at the British Library site. [143071]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council. In October 2004, the MRC established a steering committee to oversee the further development of a business plan for the renewal of the NIMR, bringing together scientific and business issues. In February 2005, following the selection of University College London as the preferred partner for the renewal of the NIMR, a project group comprising representatives from the MRC, the NIMR and UCL was established to advise the Committee on the development of the business case required for the Gateway Process.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date Sir Keith Peters was appointed as interim director of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR); how many days Sir Keith has worked at the NIMR since taking up the post; and if he will make a statement. [143078]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

Sir Keith Peters took up the appointment as an interim Director of the NIMR on 1 October 2006. His contract requires him to work an average of eight days per month.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether the National Institute for Medical Research is permitted to do a preliminary

feasibility study of the proposal to relocate to the British Library site; [143106]

(2) why the first statement of 31 May 2007 from the steering group on the relocation of the National Institute for Medical Research was qualified by the further statement of 1 June that the 31 May statement should not be given to the media or staff. [143965]

Malcolm Wicks: This is a matter for the Medical Research Council (MRC). I have asked the MRC's Chief Executive, Professor Colin Blakemore, to reply to my hon. Friend.

New Businesses: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new businesses established in West Lancashire received Government *(a)* funding and *(b)* assistance in each of the last five years. [144816]

Margaret Hodge: In 2002-03 one new business received funding through an enterprise grant (these became selective financial investment grants in 2004) funded by the Small Business Service. Since this time, there has been no take-up of available grants by new businesses.

The number of new businesses in West Lancashire receiving assistance through the Business Link service for the years in question is as follows:

Businesses receiving Business Link assistance

	Number
2002-03	70
2003-04	59
2004-05	72
2005-06	36
2006-07	6

North West Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Northwest Regional Development Agency's budget was in each year since 1997. [145073]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows the Single Pot budget given to the Northwest Regional Development Agency since their creation in 1999-2000 to the present year:

RDA Year	*NWDA (£000)*
1999-2000	141,367
2000-01	155,750
2001-02	269,688
2002-03	274,032
2003-04	309,092
2004-05	366,720
2005-06	381,831
2006-07	400,133
2007-08	408,904

Nuclear Power Stations

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make an announcement on the proposed strategic siting assessment for new nuclear power stations. [144831]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government recently published a consultation document on nuclear power as well as a consultation document inviting views on a proposed process for carrying out a strategic siting assessment (SSA). Both consultations close on 10 October 2007. We intend to publish a policy statement in response to both consultations by the end of the year.

The SSA consultation document proposes that, if the Government confirm their preliminary view that it is in the public interest to allow companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations, the SSA will be launched in early 2008 and conclude in mid 2009.

Overseas Trade: Brazil

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what further action he plans to take to encourage an increase in the value and volume of trade between the UK and Brazil. [145020]

Mr. McCartney: Brazil is identified as an emerging market under UK Trade and Investment's strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World". As part of this strategy, we are focusing on deepening our trade and economic relationship with Brazil with the aim of increasing the level of trade between the UK and Brazil. We aim to achieve this by raising awareness about the opportunities in Brazil and by tackling barriers to trade. The UK-Brazil Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO) is one tool already in place to support these aims and a number of activities are ongoing under this. For example:

A "Brazil: New Business Opportunities" event, organised by the Brazilian embassy with the support of UK Trade and Investment, is taking place [took place] in London on 25 June and is bringing together UK and Brazilian businesses.

The CBI is delivering a comprehensive programme aimed at improving the business environment in Brazil.

A full programme of activity aimed at increasing links and collaboration between the UK and Brazil is under way for the Brazil-UK Year of Science.

The FCO Global Opportunities Fund is supporting a visit by experts from the UK Intellectual Property Office to Brazil to deliver intellectual property rights training to Brazilian patent examiners.

A series of joint events are planned to promote professional services during the Lord Mayor's visit to Brazil in August.

The second ministerial JETCO meeting will take place in September in London. This will be attended by Brazil's new Minister of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Miguel Jorges.

In addition, four extra staff are joining UKTI's network in Brazil in the next few months as part of a refocusing of resources to emerging markets under the strategy. UKTI has also appointed a high growth market specialist from the private sector with extensive experience of Brazil to assist UKTI in raising awareness of the opportunities in Brazil and to provide business development advice and market intelligence for companies.

Power Stations: Peterhead

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will assess the likely effects of the proposals in the Government's White Paper on Energy on the planning of the 90 per cent. carbon free power station at Peterhead. [144900]

Mr. McCartney: The Energy White Paper announced that a competition would be launched in November 2007 to develop the UK's first commercial scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage technologies on a power generation facility. This will contribute to the UK's emission reduction targets while also demonstrating the technology to an international audience in support of the Government's wider climate change objectives.

Since publication of the Energy White Paper BP has announced its withdrawal from the Peterhead project. We are aware that several other companies remain interested in participating in the competition and we are keen to see other projects come forward as the competition develops.

The decision on planning consent for a particular case is a matter for the relevant competent authority, and in the case of Peterhead that is Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. I understand they gave approval to the proposal on 14 June this year.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing trade union representation on Regional Development Agency boards; and what representations he has received from the Trades Union Congress on this matter. [143124]

Margaret Hodge: RDA boards are made up of a range of different skills and experience to reflect a balance of regional interests. Each board includes a trade union representative.

Each trade union member is appointed by the Secretary of State following a recruitment process which meets the code of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Each board member's performance is reviewed annually by the Chair of the RDA. Ministers take account of performance reviews when considering reappointments.

I meet the TUC regional development network regularly to discuss RDA issues but not appointments policy.

Research: Closures

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the case for allowing the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology to exercise powers of scrutiny over proposed research institute closures; and what discussions he has had with the Trades Union Congress on this matter. [143151]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* Recommendations in the Science and Technology Committee's report on its Inquiry into the Research Council Institutes, published on 22 March, suggested a greater role for the Office of Science and Innovation in monitoring the Research Council Institutes, including any restructuring of those Institutes. These issues were raised in April at a meeting between myself, as Minister responsible for science and innovation, and Prospect.

The Government's approach remains that the Research Councils should retain responsibility for the management and organisation of their Research Institutes. Research Councils discuss any proposed closures of such Institutes with local staff trade unions, as a matter of course.

But Ministers and the OSI retain an interest in ensuring the good overall management of our science base and its institutions.

Royal Mail: Government Assistance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1419W, on Royal Mail: Government assistance, what the independent sources are that have verified the status of Government support to Royal Mail. [145076]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department used a number of external commercial advisers to ensure that the financial arrangements that are currently being investigated by the European Commission were made on a commercial basis. The main source of independent advice has been Deloitte. Advice was also obtained from Credit Suisse, Strategia and Herbert Smith.

Science: Government Assistance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the level of Government funding support for science centres was in each of the last five years; and what total support is expected to be given *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* up to 2010. [144106]

Malcolm Wicks: Government funding for science centres over the last five years is shown in the following table:

	£000
2002-03	61
2003-04	598
2004-05	560
2005-06	932
2006-07	333

These figures include:

DTI funding of £93,000 from a total of £150,000 paid between 2001 and 2004, to Ecsite UK, an umbrella body for science centres, to help it become established and become financially sustainable.

£2 million, from DTI and DfES, between 2004 and 2006 to certain centres which were assessed as likely to become financially viable with the short term funding.

(a) Funding for 2007-08 will include £450,000 as a part of £750,000 project ran by Ecsite UK (between November 2006 and March 2008) to help the science centres achieve financial sustainability and £33,000 funding for Ecsite-UK.

(b) The Government have provided this short-term funding on the basis that science centres should be self-sustaining thereafter.

Severn Barrage

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the organisations and authorities whose views *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposing the proposal for a tidal barrage across the River Severn have been communicated to him. [144715]

Malcolm Wicks: There is no specific proposal at present to build a Severn Barrage. The Sustainable Development Commission is however producing a report, with financial support from various parties including my Department, looking at various options for harnessing the potential tidal energy resource that exists around the UK, including within the Severn estuary. The SDC will, of course, be looking at the Severn Barrage tidal power scheme and other options within the Severn estuary.

The SDC project has included a significant programme of stakeholder and public engagement. This work is now complete and involved two stakeholder workshops in Aberdeen and Cardiff, a series of deliberative public workshops and focus groups at regional and local levels, and a national omnibus poll. A report of the engagement programme, and an independent evaluation of the programme, will be published as part of the evidence base that underpins the SDC's final report that is expected by the end of September.

In the communications that have been received by my Department from organisations or authorities on this issue, it has not always been the case that opinion is clearly for or against a particular scheme.

Shale: Imports

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what tonnage of shale was imported into the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004. [144595]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* Imports of shale for construction or similar uses cannot be distinguished from imports of similar clays. HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics give the following figures for imports of HS271410 bituminous or oil-shale and tar sands:

Year/quarter	*Weight (thousand tonnes)*
2004	
Q1	24
Q2	41
Q3	278
Q4	318
2005	
Q1	608
Q2	596
Q3	146
Q4	341
2006	
Q1	132
Q2	75
Q3	
Q4	1
2007	
Q1	1

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics

UK Trade and Investment: Fees and Charges

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what income UK Trade and Investment received from charging businesses for its services in each of the last five years. [144917]

Mr. McCartney: UK Trade and Investment's operating income, which principally comprises fees and charges for services provided to external customers, is shown in the Annual Reports and Accounts as follows;

	£
2002-03	900,000
2003-04	1,275,000
2004-05	1,057,000
2005-06	1,037,000
2006-07	1,676,000

The figure for 2006-07 is provisional and remains subject to final audit.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what criteria are used to allocate payments from the Union Modernisation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [138716]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers select projects for UMF funding on the basis of recommendations made by an independent Supervisory Board. Bids are assessed against a series of eligibility and selection criteria set out in the UMF application pack (www.dti.gov.uk/files/file35395.pdf). The bids are assessed to ensure that they fall within the scope of the fund; will deliver outcomes that would not happen without funding; have been realistically costed and offer value for money; and have suitable project management arrangements in place for effective delivery of the project.

Working Hours

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of men who would like to work more flexibly; [144147]

(2) what steps are being taken to raise awareness of the business case for flexible working among employers; [144148]

(3) what research he has *(a)* examined and *(b)* commissioned on the impact of increasing flexible working on skills shortages in the UK; [144146]

(4) whether he has made an assessment of the impact of flexible working on productivity. [144149]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No specific research has been commissioned by DTI on flexible working and skill shortages in the UK. However, to the extent that flexible working helps employers both to recruit and retain skilled staff, it will help to reduce skill shortages in the UK. DTI research has found that many employees consider the availability of flexible working to be important when deciding to work with their current employer.

With regard to the percentage of men who would like to work more flexibly the DTIs Third Work-Life Balance Employee Survey found that almost half (46 per cent.) either were currently working flexibly, or had done so in the past year. When men who had not made a request to work flexibly were asked why, more than three-fifths said they were happy with their current arrangements or gave other personal reasons. Overall, 86 per cent. of male employees said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their current working arrangements, compared with only 5 per cent. who were dissatisfied and 1 per cent. who were very dissatisfied.

The relationship between various workplace practices and productivity is a complex one, mediated by a host of other variables; studies often find no statistically significant relationship. The relationship between work-life balance and labour productivity was investigated in Chapter 10 of the DTI-sponsored report, 'Inside the Workplace: Findings from the 2004 Workplace Employment Relations Survey' (Routledge 2006). It was found that work-life balance practices were not jointly significant when added to the baseline labour productivity model. A forthcoming DTI research report, however, has found that in private sector workplaces an increased incidence of family-friendly provisions is positively associated with managers' perceptions of improved financial performance.

In terms of raising awareness of the business case for flexible working among employers, the DTI has recently worked with Carers UK, ACAS, British Chambers of Commerce and British Gas to produce an employer's pack which illustrates the business case for flexible working. The Business Link website provides advice and guidance on flexible working and highlights the business case and benefits to employers of working flexibly.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what definition he uses of flexible working for the purposes of departmental policy. [144150]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI considers "flexible working" to cover a range of solutions that enable its staff to work in a variety of patterns and locations while allowing the Department to efficiently deploy its resources to meet and adapt to changing business needs. Flexible working options available to staff include:

Part time working;
Job sharing;
Flexi time;
Home working;
Compressed hours;
Annualised hours;
Team time working.

The Department recognises the benefits that flexible working can bring to its staff, to the successful delivery of its business strategy and its customers.

Written Questions

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will answer question *(a)* 136543, on maternity and paternity leave, and *(b)* 136541, on Overseas Trade magazine, tabled on 3 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton. [141262]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I answered the hon. Member's question on maternity and paternity leave (136543) on 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1416W, and question on Overseas Trade magazine (136541) today.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will answer question 136542, on Departments: newspapers, tabled on 3 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton. [141285]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I answered the hon. Member's question on Departments publications (136542) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1818W.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will answer question 136530, on paternity leave, tabled on 3 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton. [141286]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I answered the hon. Member's question on paternity leave (136530) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1825W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arms Length Management Organisations

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department has taken to allow local authorities with arms-length management organisations the flexibility to use their own *(a)* land and *(b)* other resources to build and own homes; [143462]

(2) what plans her Department has to facilitate the construction of more council housing by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* arms-length management organisations. [143467]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities have an important role in securing new affordable housing. They should work in partnership with housing associations and developers, using their planning and other powers, to identify need and support development. But we are encouraging more direct development by authorities where it offers value for money.

We have changed the bidding process for social housing grant this year which will make it easier for arms-length management organisations (ALMOs) or local authority special venture vehicles to satisfy pre-qualification tests of financial standing and technical capacity which has hampered previous ALMO bids; and ensure that when an authority brings forward land in a bid, this is likely to score well in meeting the criteria of deliverability and strategic fit.

We are exploring with six local authorities, three of which have ALMOs, the benefits of their coming out of the housing revenue subsidy system. The pilots have shown that being self-financing creates a number of benefits, one of which is the opportunity for councils to have a more direct role in building homes for rent. The work of the pilots is currently being assessed.

Coastal Areas: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1673-74W, on coastal areas: Hampshire, what the

timetable is for the publication of the reviews of Hampshire's two shoreline management plans. [145839]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Hampshire coast is covered by two shoreline management plans (SMPs). The North Solent shoreline (Selsey Bill to Hurst Spit) is led by New Forest district council and its review has just started for completion by about March 2009. The Hurst Spit to Durlston Head is led by Bournemouth borough council, and its review does not yet have a confirmed start date.

Community Relations

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to tackle the incidence of Somali youths engaged in fundamentalist activities in the UK. [144177]

Mr. Woolas: The Government remain strongly committed to working with all communities to tackle violent extremism. To this end, the Department for Communities and Local Government works with a number of different diaspora communities in the UK including the Somalian. We are focusing our work on those organisations that are taking a proactive leadership role in tackling extremism and defending our shared values.

Conveyancing: Fees and charges

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government plan to take to improve price transparency of local authority property searches. [140867]

Yvette Cooper: To implement the Office of Fair Trading's recommendation about price transparency for local authority (LA) property search services we have commissioned a study by KPMG which will conclude in mid-July 2007. This will be followed by a formal 12-week consultation on the outcomes. The aim is to have a transparent LA charging regime in place from April 2008. Forty local authorities have already cut their costs in anticipation of home information packs (HIP) because they know that, for the first time, the charges and the length of time taken will be transparent to the consumer and to HIP providers.

Council Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* set up and *(b)* running costs are of the National Register of Social Housing. [143634]

Yvette Cooper: The development costs were £2.5 million and the running costs for Communities and Local Government are currently £115,000 per annum.

The National Register of Social Housing collects information on the size, type, standard, energy efficiency, accessibility, rents and turnover of all social housing in England and Wales. It will provide statistics for the Neighbourhood Statistics Service and for any geographical area and will be available for local and regional authorities and housing associations to help them improve their strategies to provide affordable housing and meet local needs. It will lead to a reduction of the burden on data providers when it replaces the current forms based systems for collection of data.

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contractual agreements Ordnance Survey (OS) has made with the Valuation Office Agency for release of data held by OS to the Agency. [143453]

Mr. Woolas: Ordnance Survey licenses the Valuation Office Agency to access a range of data and products for use within their business operations. The Valuation Office Agency is a member of the Pan-government Agreement, a collective purchasing agreement between Ordnance Survey and central Government.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency uses fee code segmentation data for valuation purposes. [143493]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's contract with Rightmove gives the agency access to data or analysis from the Rightmove Automated Valuation Model. [143629]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Valuation Office Agency's contract with Rightmove allowed the agency to start collecting information about domestic dwellings. [143635]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency has collected information about domestic dwellings in order to meet its statutory responsibilities to compile and maintain council tax valuation lists since 1991.

The facility to access data from Rightmove's archive of estate agent particulars (which had previously been available to the public on Rightmove.co.uk's main website) began on the date of the agreement—1 June 2005.

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data her Department collects on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies it sponsors. [144393]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has a legal obligation to compile data on public procurement for the European Commission. This includes data from the public bodies it sponsors.

Specific data are required for each contract or framework awarded in the last calendar year where the estimated value is above the threshold of the procurement regulations.

The data required includes:
The nationality of the supplier
The category i.e. supply, works or service
The commodity coding allocated
The procurement procedure adopted
The estimated total value
Whether a contract or framework.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by staff in her Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145287]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has spent the following via Government Procurement Card (GPC) over the last three financial years.

1 April to 31 March:	*£*
2004-05	377,080
2005-06	234,243
2006-07	284,868

The Department also used a fuel card and spent the following over the last three financial years.

1 April to 31 March:	*£*
2004-05	3,239
2005-06	1,151
2006-07	235

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy-saving light bulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144939]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government purchased 1,374 compact fluorescent energy-saving light bulbs in 2005. The Department is unable to provide data for 2006 at this time. However, the Department's policy is to use low-energy lighting wherever appropriate, as part of our wider efforts to improve energy efficiency throughout the estate. The figure does not include energy-saving light bulbs purchased by the Department's Executive Agencies, non-departmental public bodies or the Government Offices.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139103]

Angela E. Smith: Staff are requested but not required to inform us if they have epilepsy, and as such this information is not held centrally. However we are committed to support all staff with a disability, and work with a network of such staff to ensure that their needs are met.

The Department's recent Disability Equality Scheme has been acknowledged as one of the top four in Whitehall by the Disability Rights Commission.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many memoranda of understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in her Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144478]

Angela E. Smith: None.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the requests made to her Department under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations in the last six months; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) request summary, (iii) request outcome and (iv), where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [143471]

Angela E. Smith: The list of requests made to the Department for Communities and Local Government under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations in the period from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007 has been tabulated and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House, together with the other details requested.

This tabulation is solely of requests handled by the Central Department, and does not include requests made to its agencies or the Government Office Network.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff funded by the public purse in *(a)* English Partnerships, *(b)* the Housing Corporation, *(c)* the Commission for Racial Equality, *(d)* the Audit Commission, *(e)* the Standards Board and Adjudication Panel for England, *(f)* the Government office for (i) London, (ii) the South East, (iii) the South West, (iv) West Midlands, (v) East Midlands, (vi) North West, (vii) East of England, (viii) North East and (ix) Yorkshire and Humberside, *(g)* the Fire Service College, *(h)* Ordnance Survey, *(i)* the Planning Inspectorate, *(j)* The Rent Service and *(k)* the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre are classified as people without posts. [141308]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1525W, on departments: manpower, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of keeping the staff referred to in employment during the period in which they were without a post. [141363]

Angela E. Smith: None. Of the 19 staff in the department who were without a permanent post on 30 April 2007 the majority are currently working for the Department contributing to the Department's objectives. Others are on unpaid leave or have medical issues.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145944]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not currently have a concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive.

The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of staff in her Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145675]

Angela E. Smith: Percentage of staff over 60 years of age on 31 March for each of last three years was as follows:

	Percentage
2005	4
2006	3
2007	2.8

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145711]

Angela E. Smith: For staff for whom the information requested is available, the numbers requested are:

	Over 55 years of age		*Over 60 years of age*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	18	4.1	6	1.4
2005-06	6	2.4	1	0.4
2004-05	20	4.0	7	1.4

Departments: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current rate of employer contribution is to each public sector pension scheme for which her Department has responsibility; what the revenue impact would be of capping the employer contribution to each such scheme at 14 per cent. and if she will make a statement. [144296]

Mr. Woolas: Figures derived from the most recent statistical returns for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England and Wales indicate that in 2005-06, the average employer contribution rate for the scheme was 15.2 per cent. of payroll. For the firefighters' pension scheme, the current estimated employers' cost is 26.5 per cent. of payroll and 14.2 per cent. for members of the new firefighters' pension scheme.

Introducing a cap of 14 per cent. employers' contributions to the LGPS would reduce scheme income by some £326 million per annum on current estimated figures. For the firefighters' pension schemes, the equivalent estimate figure is some £120 million.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public consultations her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145270]

Angela E. Smith: Over the 12 months to end May 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government launched 42 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what scientific research has been conducted by her Department and its agencies on alternate weekly collections of household rubbish. [143632]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1659W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research and statistical data gathering have been conducted by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission on the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled. [143633]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities are required to report quarterly data on municipal waste (encompassing household waste) to WasteDataFlow. When reporting data, authorities should specify the amount of waste collected for recycling that is subsequently rejected, at the point of collection, at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), or at the gate of the reprocessor. The data reported to WasteDataFlow are used by the Environment Agency and DEFRA to monitor the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

The agency has also carried out a survey on household waste materials reclamation facilities in England and Wales. They identified and visited about 80 candidate sites to ascertain recovery and reject levels at each site, verifying this information via a visual inspection of bale quality and the overall state of each facility. The overall typical spread of reject rates for MRFs was from 5-25 per cent. with 10-15 per cent. being the average. Around 1 million tonnes of municipal waste were reported to WasteDataFlow as being processed by an MRF.

Analysis by the Waste and Resources Action Programme, based on a range of data sources, suggests that a conservative estimate of the amount of household waste collected for recycling which is not recycled is around 5-10 per cent. In 2005-06, a total of 6.87 million tonnes of waste from household sources was collected for recycling.

I am not aware of any research carried out by the Audit Commission in this area. However, the Audit Commission has published a number of guidance documents containing advice to local councils on how they can meet their statutory requirements with regards to waste by improving their waste management and adopting best practice. The Audit Commission also examines the performance of councils and the services they provide, including waste, through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, and provides recommendations for improvement.

Electromagnetic Fields: Public Opinion

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she takes of public opinion in determining suitable precautionary measures on power frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMFs); what mechanism she plans to put in place to assess public opinion on the issues raised by the recently published Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields report on precautionary approaches to power frequency EMFs; and if she will make a statement. [144689]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The recently published report from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), known as the SAGE report, is currently under consideration by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The Government have asked HPA for advice concerning the report's recommendations. The Government will consider the HPA's advice and, should any further measures be considered as part of a precautionary approach, would consult stakeholders as part of the process. A copy of the SAGE Report has been placed in the Library.

European Regional Development Fund

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of the decision by the European Commission to suspend European Regional Development Fund payments for England. [135780]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* It is not possible to make an accurate estimate of any cost to the Department. Currently the EC has delayed reimbursing the Government for the claims it makes to cover the expenditure on particular ERDF projects. We are working with the Commission to ensure that any outstanding concerns will be addressed.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects payments suspended by the European Commission of European Regional Development Fund to England to be resumed; and if she will make a statement. [135782]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Government received formal notification on 11 April 2007 that the EC was holding reimbursement of payments in respect of ERDF 2000-06 programmes in five (out of nine) regions and the URBAN programme in Peterborough. Evidence is currently being provided for the EC on those regions and programmes so that payments can resume.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is currently suspended by the European Commission in payments from the European Regional Development Fund to England. [135783]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Commission's decision to hold back the reimbursement of claims for expenditure on projects funded from the ERDF 2000-06 programmes pending further onsite checks took effect on 4 April 2007. No claims have been made since then. The Department however had outstanding claims of £269 million from earlier claims at the time of the Commission's decision which the Commission has not yet paid. The Department is working to ensure that they are reimbursed as quickly as possible.

Fire Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious fire alarm calls were attended by the fire and rescue services in each London borough in each of the last five years. [145220]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Malicious false alarm calls attended by London brigade in each London borough, 2001-05

London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City of London	36	16	31	23	10
Barking and Dagenham	402	340	343	365	179
Barnet	318	300	186	233	185
Bexley	210	144	155	146	60
Brent	477	360	390	344	173
Bromley	240	192	229	195	137
Camden	414	352	335	313	320
Croydon	450	304	277	161	166
Ealing	405	279	298	301	103
Enfield	471	425	395	383	186
Greenwich	573	456	366	362	173
Hackney	642	526	438	409	156
Hammersmith and Fulham	216	182	156	139	75
Haringey	474	556	451	404	236
Harrow	165	136	204	251	111
Havering	144	154	147	119	87
Hillingdon	354	308	269	189	98
Hounslow	306	243	202	162	67
Islington	438	366	419	309	126
Kensington and Chelsea	234	146	163	145	80

Malicious false alarm calls attended by London brigade in each London borough, 2001-05

London borough	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Kingston upon Thames	108	82	64	65	60
Lambeth	480	435	354	411	181
Lewisham	462	333	582	431	136
Merton	168	127	154	69	46
Newham	975	770	681	511	180
Redbridge	240	214	219	139	103
Richmond upon Thames	84	60	62	43	28
Southwark	594	509	474	433	193
Sutton	144	111	124	91	40
Tower Hamlets	783	842	610	558	252
Waltham Forest	372	259	280	311	157
Wandsworth	312	244	250	216	122
Westminster	444	450	311	354	198
Greater London	12,135	10,221	9,619	8,585	4,424
Completeness rate (percentage)	96	96	99	100	100

Note: The completeness rate is the proportion of malicious false alarms for which we have an accurate geographic reference, and can therefore be matched to a London borough. The table excludes incidents that occurred during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
Source:
ONS Neighbourhood statistics database, "Fire and Rescue Service: All Incidents" dataset.

Home Information Packs

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to answer question 138411, tabled on 16 May 2007, on home information pack inspectors. [143194]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the submission from the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services regarding the viability for local authorities of the enforcement of home information packs and pursue non-payment of fines; and if she will make a statement. [140869]

Ruth Kelly: We fully expect local authority trading standards officers to carry out their new statutory duties when home information packs are introduced on 1 August 2007. The Department has worked closely with the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) throughout the development of this policy and is now working with them to ensure a smooth implementation. Trading standards have the expertise and experience to operate a common-sense approach to enforcement assessing each case individually, and taking into account whether the HIP is being deliberately avoided when deciding appropriate measures to take—ranging from advice and warnings to a £200 penalty charge. Any estate agents issued with a penalty charge will be reported to the OFT, which has the ability to issue a banning order preventing an offender from trading as an estate agent.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals have opted to purchase a home condition report in Phase 2 of the home information pack trial. [129210]

Ruth Kelly: In total we have received requests for more than 4,000 home information packs (HIPs) across all the trials.

We are still analysing and compiling the data from Phase 2 of the trials. We will publish the findings later in the year.

We are still receiving completed HIPs from pack providers and solicitors. MORI continues to conduct independent research with organisations involved in the trial and with buyers and sellers using the HIPs in their transactions.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the potential effect on the housing market of the introduction of compulsory home information packs. [136475]

Ruth Kelly: Research conducted for the Department by Europe Economics suggested that had home information packs (HIPs) been implemented on 1 June for all properties there might have been a transitory impact on the volume of properties marketed for sale as consumers adjusted to the new duties. Any such impact was likely to have been small compared with the normal fluctuations in listings. The analysis further predicted that listings behaviour would quickly return to trend levels as the new systems settles into place. Under the revised arrangements, with phased introduction of HIPs, any transitional impacts are likely to be even less significant.

The report further suggests that any transitional adjustments are unlikely to affect house prices or transactions, and that home information packs are unlikely to be a determinant of future changes in house price trends.

In the medium term, as home information packs improve transparency and increase competition, making home buying and selling a quicker, more certain and less daunting experience, the operation of the market should improve.

The Europe Economics research is currently being updated to reflect the phased implementation announced on 22 May 2007. The revised report will be published in due course.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that provisions are introduced to provide redress for consumers who are mis-sold properties on the basis of inaccurate information in home information packs; and if she will make a statement. [136613]

Yvette Cooper: Consumers will be able to seek independent redress for home information pack (HIP)-related complaints against estate agents who are acting

in relation to the sale of residential properties for which a HIP is required. The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who is the Minister with policy responsibility for estate agents, will shortly be making an order requiring such estate agents in England and Wales to belong to an approved redress scheme for HIP-related complaints from 1 August 2007.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government Departments and agencies will have access to the central register of *(a)* home condition reports and *(b)* energy performance certificates. [137571]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1400W, regarding access to home condition reports.

Access to energy performance certificates entered in the register is controlled under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. It is an offence for the keeper of the register to disclose EPCs to any other person unless expressly permitted by the Regulations. These Regulations make provision for the disclosure to the Energy Performance Certificate Register by means other than the report reference number to enforcement authorities including the Office of Fair Trading for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime, and prosecuting offenders through the courts.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government also has access for monitoring and enforcement of the Regulations or auditing the work of certification schemes, and that of the register operator, provided that no particular property is identifiable from the information disclosed. No other Departments have access.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of a bedroom the Government intend to use for the purpose of determining whether a home information pack will be required for the sale of a property after 1 August. [139884]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* We set out details in the home information packs regulations and commencement order which were published on 11 June 2007.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will request additional resources from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pay transitional compensation to individuals who re-trained at their own expense as energy performance inspectors in the expectation that opportunities to work as energy performance inspectors would be available from 1 June, until the home information packs scheme begins; [140569]

(2) if she will make available resources from the contingency fund to compensate those people who re-trained as energy performance inspectors in the expectation that their work would start on 1 June this year. [140568]

Yvette Cooper: The reasons for the delay to the implementation of home information packs were set out in the statement on 22 May 2007.

The proposals we set out on 22 May will mean domestic energy assessors (DEAs) will be able to begin work shortly. We laid revised regulations on 11 June and from 1 August DEAs will also start work with four-bedroom and larger properties, rolling out to all properties as soon as possible.

We have invited councils and registered social landlords to work with us to introduce energy performance certificates (EPCs) on a voluntary basis in social housing. We are also providing 5,000 subsidised EPCs with every HIP commissioned before 1 August. These two projects will support the transition in the housing market, allow for further trialling and help to deliver early carbon savings as well as ensuring that there is as much work as possible for energy assessors at an early stage.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of four-bedroom properties on the housing market in 2007 which are expected to be unable to exchange on completion of transaction due to inability to provide a previously commissioned home improvement pack; and if she will make a statement. [140690]

Yvette Cooper: We published our assessment of the introduction of Home Information Packs on 11 June. A number of the largest home information pack providers have committed themselves to ensuring that home-owners anywhere in England and Wales should be able to obtain a pack within seven working days at the advertised national rate.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how a four-bedroom house will be defined for the purposes of the revised home information pack regulations; and whether householders will be able to re-designate a bedroom for a different use from 1 August to avoid the need for a pack. [140851]

Yvette Cooper: We set out details in the home information packs regulations and commencement order which were published on 11 June 2007.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* start and *(b)* end date is for consultation on the new home information pack regulations. [140858]

Yvette Cooper: The new home information pack regulations have been discussed with key stakeholders and scrutiny bodies including the Better Regulation Executive and the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee. This follows consultation in January of this year. A consultation in accordance with the Department's agreement with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on the age of an energy performance certificate when included in a home information pack will commence this summer.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the full conclusions of each geographic dry run for home information packs. [140861]

Yvette Cooper: Full conclusions from the area trials will not be available until the end of the year. The implementation update published on 11 June includes information on the assessments that will be done. A copy of the update has been placed in the House Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide the most recent figures available for numbers of *(a)* trained and *(b)* fully accredited (i) home inspectors and (ii) domestic energy inspectors. [140866]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

Regular updates to the figures on trained and accredited assessors will be available on the Department's website.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage change in the number of homes being placed on the market as a result of the introduction of home information packs with voluntary home condition reports. [140868]

Yvette Cooper: Estimates on listings are set out in the impact assessment published on 11 June 2007.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her statement of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 644, on numbers of accredited home inspectors and accredited energy inspectors, how many of the 1,110 inspectors were fully accredited on that date. [140872]

Yvette Cooper: On 16 May 1,110 people were either accredited or having their accreditation processed to be Home Inspectors or Energy Assessors. Of those, 406 had completed accreditation or certification and 706 were having their accreditation processed.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Middlesbrough and *(b)* the North East have completed training to become home inspectors. [143424]

Yvette Cooper: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

We will provide further regular updates on the Department's website.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1527W, on home information packs, what the estimated average market price is of a home information pack for a four-bedroom home, including VAT; [143455]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average market cost of a home information pack, including VAT, for a four-bedroom house. [143497]

Yvette Cooper: An estimate of the cost of producing a home information pack is set out in the Impact Assessment published on 11 June 2007.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Home Information Pack Toolkit produced by her Department. [143460]

Yvette Cooper: We are reprinting the Home Information Pack Toolkit, which will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the agreement of 22 May between her Department and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in relation to home information packs. [143473]

Ruth Kelly: A copy of the agreement is available in the Library of both Houses.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will be responsible for assessing whether a domestic dwelling has four or more bedrooms and will require a home information pack from 1 August. [143496]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Act 2004 (Commencement No.8) (England and Wales) Order 2007 provides that homes that are marketed as having four bedrooms or more will require a home information pack (HIP). The Housing Act 2004 makes it clear that the responsibility to obtain a home information pack is on the person responsible for marketing the property.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role *(a)* Rightmove and *(b)* Countrywide played in providing advice, research or consultancy to her Department and its predecessors on home information packs. [143628]

Yvette Cooper: We have worked with a large number of stakeholders, including Rightmove and Countrywide, on the development of home information packs.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will hold a consultation on its plans to revise the home information pack regulations. [145163]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's statement to the House on 22 May 2007.

House Prices and Wages Ratio

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the ratio of house prices to wages in *(a)* Dorset and *(b)* Hampshire. [111320]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 January 2007]:* The most recently published information on the ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile

incomes at local authority district and county level is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 576 at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/218/Table576_id1505218.xls

The earnings data come from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings of the Office for National Statistics of individuals and the house price data come from the Land Registry. The lower quartile price (or earnings) is that figure below which are one quarter of the prices (or earnings) and above which are three quarters of the prices (or earnings).

Housing

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many consecutive years a local authority is allowed to fail to meet its own target for the delivery of affordable housing as recorded in the Annual Monitoring Report before she will *(a)* call in the local plan and *(b)* direct the local authority to modify the plan. [118896]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State's call-in powers in section 21 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 are relevant only in advance of the adoption of the plan by the local authority. The Secretary of State may issue a direction to a local authority to revise an adopted plan within a set time scale. The Secretary of State's powers in this regard would be used only exceptionally, depending on the particular circumstances of the plan in question.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the report on the future of housing policy and access to social housing is due to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published; and if she will make a statement. [143958]

Yvette Cooper: Professor John Hills's report 'Ends and Means: The Future Role of Social Housing in England' was published in February 2007.

The report has provoked a wide-ranging debate on the role of social housing in the 21st century. We are now carrying out a programme of work to address the issues raised.

As part of this programme, on 19 June we launched two key consultations 'Delivering Housing & Regeneration: Communities England and the future of social housing regulation', which outlines proposals to create a new housing and regeneration agency and responds to Professor Martin Cave's review of social housing regulation 'Every Tenant Matters', also published on 19 June; and 'Tenant Empowerment', which outlines proposals to increase empowerment of social housing tenants.

Further details of these consultations are provided in the written statement 'Delivering affordable housing, sustainable communities and better outcomes for tenants', laid on 19 June 2007.

Housing: Armed Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of service personnel applying for social housing from local authorities under *(a)* Part VI and *(b)* Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (i) prior to and (ii) following discharge. [133143]

Ruth Kelly: No information is held centrally about the number of service personnel and former service personnel applying to local authorities for social housing in England.

Housing: Construction

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of flat and house sales were for new build properties in each of the last five years. [143481]

Yvette Cooper: The proportions of flat and house sales that were for new build properties for each of the last five years for England is presented in the table as follows. Data for 2006 are provisional.

Proportion of residential house price transactions that were new by dwelling type in England, 2002-06

	2002	2003	2004	2005	[1]2006
Flats	14.0	17.3	18.8	24.4	22.5
Houses	7.5	7.4	7.0	7.0	5.5
All sales	8.6	9.1	9.3	10.4	8.8

[1] provisional

Source:
HM Land Registry

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the homes in the five eco villages will be *(a)* social housing, *(b)* shared ownership and *(c)* low cost housing. [143640]

Yvette Cooper: Further information about plans for eco-towns will be set out later this year.

Housing: Elderly

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the arrangements to inform and protect elderly homebuyers purchasing lifetime leases; how many complaints were made to the Government concerning such schemes in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [142174]

Yvette Cooper: The regulatory treatment of lifetime leases was addressed in the Government's response to the March 2006 consultation document, "Secondary legislation for the regulation of home reversion and home purchase plans". The Government response to that consultation is available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/880/39/responses_homereversion_130906.pdf

We do not have figures on complaints. Older people can receive free legal advice and information on residential leasehold issues from the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE). LEASE is a non departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Inspections

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest figures are for the number of fully trained and accredited *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors in the South East Government Office Region. [143047]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

Further regular updates will be available on the Department's website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* energy inspectors have been officially accredited. [145227]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

As I made clear to the House on 12 June we will shortly begin publishing regular updates on the website. This will keep the industry informed on progress and assist its preparations for the next phase of implementation.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* home and *(b)* energy inspectors will be required to produce photographic identification to enter a domestic dwelling. [145519]

Yvette Cooper: Each Certification and Accreditation Scheme will issue identification cards to its members to use when entering a domestic dwelling to carry out their duties. There will be no cold calling by any HI or DEA; householders will have been given the name of the HI/DEA when the appointment was made for the inspection.

Housing: Low Incomes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in England are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency with a value significant code of ZI (subsidised housing—housing association—equity share). [128558]

Mr. Woolas: As at 3 March 2007, there were 5,254 dwellings in England with this code.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in each local authority in England are coded by the Valuation Office Agency with the WK value significant code. [128559]

Mr. Woolas: The number of dwellings with the VSC 'WK' as at 3 March 2007 has been tabulated and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new council houses are planned for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland. [143426]

Yvette Cooper: Local authority social rented housing stock in both Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland has been transferred to registered social landlords under the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) programme. In the case of Middlesbrough the properties are now managed by Erimus Housing Association and, in Redcar and Cleveland, by Coast and Country Housing.

The only available data on new social homes is at local authority level. The figures for the period 2004-07 are as follows:

	Unit	
	For sale/shared ownership	*For rent*
Redcar and Cleveland		
2004	10	64
2005	0	82
2006	0	38
2007	12	0
Middlesbrough		
2004	0	192
2005	0	67
2006	47	34
2007	10	35

Source:
Housing Corporation: National Affordable Homes Programme

Housing: Prices

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of an *(a)* house and *(b)* flat in (i) England and (ii) each Government office region was in (A) 2000 and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [143475]

Yvette Cooper: The mean average selling price of a house and flat in England and each Government office region for 2000 and 2006 is presented in the following table.

Mean average selling price by type of dwelling by region, England, 2000 and 2006

	2000		*2006*[1]	
	House	*Flat*	*House*	*Flat*
North East	63,805	45,264	140,773	112,145
North West	70,363	66,139	151,436	137,505
Yorkshire and the Humber	68,580	63,623	152,361	132,810
East Midlands	77,292	54,094	163,413	116,615
West Midlands	86,690	58,129	174,413	125,954
East	117,039	67,989	224,600	145,875
London	219,394	163,873	367,623	269,425
South East	156,381	83,055	271,004	162,123
South West	111,126	74,010	223,014	153,658
England	110,087	110,810	211,076	188,131

[1] Provisional figures. *Source:* HM Land Registry.

Housing: Sales

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings were marketed for sale in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [143479]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the number of domestic dwellings marketed for sale in England and Wales is not held centrally. However figures on the number of residential properties sold in England and Wales each year are available from the Land Registry and are published on our website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/162/Table588_id1156162.xls.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes with four or more bedrooms were sold in England in the last 12 months. [145131]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Immigration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local authorities on the manner in which migrant numbers are calculated for the purposes of local government funding; and if she will make a statement. [145226]

Mr. Woolas: The distribution of Formula Grant funding takes into account a measure of the usual resident population, and does not use estimates of migrant numbers separately.

The Department for Communities and Local Government uses sub-national population projections and the mid-year estimates that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These statistics take into account changes in the population through natural change (births and deaths) and internal migration (movements between local authorities) as well as international migration.

Questions on the accuracy and calculation of the population statistics are a matter for the ONS.

Immigration: EC Enlargement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to take into account the costs since 2004 of interpretation and translation services for local authorities in the eastern region when considering future grant settlements for those authorities; and if she will make a statement. [145307]

Mr. Woolas: The amount available to be distributed by the local government finance settlement is determined by the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Formula grant is unhypothecated, so there are no restrictions on how local authorities spend this grant.

Industrial Development: Planning Permission

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the time taken to receive planning approval by *(a)* manufacturers who wish to extend current factory premises or open a new manufacturing site and *(b)* mineral operators who wish to extend a currently active quarrying operation; and if she will make a statement. [144449]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State receives representations on a large number of topics, including planning procedure. Complaint about delay—whether caused by poor performance by local authorities, procedure or poor quality applications—was one of the reasons we undertook a major overhaul of the planning system. More recently, the Planning White Paper reports that our reforms have already brought substantial improvements in the performance of local planning authorities in deciding applications within target time scales.

The White Paper sets out further measures which will improve the handling of planning applications. Planning performance agreements will enable planning authority and developer to agree in advance a timetable and the requirements for achievement of each phase of processing a major application, avoiding unnecessary delay.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Powers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed infrastructure planning commission will have the remit to consider planning applications for *(a)* large-scale housing developments, *(b)* incinerators, *(c)* sewage plants, *(d)* wind farm sites and *(e)* landfill sites. [145153]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraphs 5.4 to 5.12 of the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (cm 7120), explain that the proposed infrastructure planning commission would deal with development consent applications for nationally significant transport, water, wastewater and waste infrastructure in England, and energy infrastructure in England and Wales. Local planning authorities will continue to consider the non-nationally significant applications in these sectors that they currently consider. The White Paper does not propose that the infrastructure planning commission would consider any development consent applications for large-scale housing developments.

Land Use: Contamination

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of contaminated land was restored to *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* amenity use in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years. [144440]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Information on what land is used for after remediation is not collected centrally by my Department. The Environment Agency's 2002 State of Contaminated Land Report, prepared under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, sets out available data on the identification and response to contaminated

land dealt with under the Contaminated Land Regime (Part 2A). A further report is expected to be produced later this year, but will not include information on land cleaned up under the planning regime for future use.

Land: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Valuation Office Agency is playing in the roll-out of the Valuebill project. [143478]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is promoting the benefits of the Valuebill data exchange process within the recent initiative to develop closer working relationships with its local authority partners to make it more efficient. As well as implementing the latest Valuebill exchange standard, the VOA provides a validation service for local authority IT suppliers on similar developments.

Local Authorities: Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord properties sub-let to private renters. [145034]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Secure tenants of local authorities are prohibited by law from subletting the property to private renters or to anyone else. Tenants with assured periodic tenancies of Registered Social Landlords are also prohibited by law from sub-letting the property except with the consent of the landlord.

Where a property is illegally sub-let, it is for the landlord to take steps to repossess it.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to use her powers under part III of schedule 4 to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to issue directions in respect of areas of social housing estates which are deemed to serve the wider community. [143154]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State has no plans to use powers under part III of schedule 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, but would consider any applications for appropriate directions on a case-by-case basis.

Local Government: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local government revenue expenditure was financed by specific grants in each year since 1997-98; and what the estimated figure is for 2007-08. [145536]

Mr. Woolas: The percentage of local government revenue expenditure financed by specific grants in England in each year since 1997-98 and the estimated figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are tabled as follows.

The table is produced on a non-financial Reporting Standard (FRS 17) basis to 2003-04 and on an FRS 17 basis from 2003-04 onwards. The main implication is that the costs of entitlements to retirement benefits (pensions) in FRS 17 are accounted for in the year in which employment gives rise to the entitlement, rather than the year in which cash payments of contributions or pensions take place. On an FRS 17 basis, revenue expenditure is now financed by appropriations from pension reserves, in addition to appropriations from other reserves, revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates, police grant and council tax.

The large change in specific grant from 2006-07 onwards is largely due to changes in the way the expenditure on schools is funded. Local authorities now receive dedicated schools grant, included in specific grants, replacing funding previously included in formula grant.

The definition of local government revenue expenditure used here is expenditure funded from aggregate external finance (AEF), council tax and authorities' reserves. AEF is central Government revenue funding that comprises formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and police grant), general Greater London authority (GLA) grant and specific grants inside AEF, i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. The specific grants used here are the specific grants inside AEF. Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local government revenue expenditure financed by specific grants in England

	Percentage
Non-FRS 17 basis	
1997-98	4
1998-99	5
1999-2000	5
2000-01	8
2001-02	11
2002-03	13
2003-04	18
FRS 17 basis	
2003-04	17
2004-05	17
2005-06	17
2006-07	44
2007-08	44

Source:
Revenue Summary (RS) returns to 2005-06 and Revenue Accounts (RA) budget returns for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The outturn information for 2006-07 is not yet available. Specific grants include GLA Transport Grant.

Members: Correspondence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken by her Department to reply to hon. Members' correspondence was in each of the last three years. [145064]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' and Peers' correspondence. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Information on the average time taken to reply to hon. Members' correspondence is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The longest time taken by the Department to reply to hon. Members' correspondence in each of the last three years is 188 days in 2004; 173 days in 2005; and 295 days in 2006.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many licence applications have been received by local authorities in England under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004 for mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation; and what percentage this represents of the properties subject to mandatory licensing under the Act. [144451]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* The collection of data on licence applications received by local authorities in England for the mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation is still in progress. The Department will release these figures when they are available.

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the effect of paragraph 2(2), Schedule 3 of the Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Housing Miscellaneous Provisions (England) Regulations 2006. [144452]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* The Department is committed to reviewing the operation of licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation, including the provisions in paragraph (2) (2) of schedule 3 of Statutory Instrument 373 'The Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006'. We are currently discussing these with stakeholders.

Multiple Occupation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in multiple occupation there were in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [144096]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in local authority areas has been collected by the Department through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) since 2001. The Department does not hold data on the number of HMOs in local authority areas prior to this date. The following table details the number of HMOs in the city of Peterborough since 2001.

Housing strategy statistical data

	Number of HMOs
2001-02	2,000
2002-03	1,000
2003-04	800
2004-05	1,000
2005-06	1,000

Source:
Peterborough City Council

Non-domestic Rates

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many notices of appeal the Valuation Office Agency has received in relation to the 2005 business rates revaluation in each year since the ratings list for the 2005 revaluation was published. [143671]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency has received the following number of valid proposals against the 2005 rating lists:

	Number
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	269,882
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	136,903
1 April 2007 to 31 May 2007	18,865
Total	425,650

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1419W, and 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 848W, on business rate valuations, whether the explanatory work has been completed; and what conclusions have been reached on the feasibility of using automated valuation modelling for business rate valuations. [145484]

Mr. Woolas: The first phase in a two-phase feasibility study on the potential contribution of automated valuation modelling (AVM) in support of the forthcoming 2010 non-domestic revaluation concludes that an AVM is capable of supporting the revaluation of certain classes of property by providing:

1. Provisional valuation matrices.

2. Exception reports to assist in the review and validation of rental information.

3. Market analysis, including the development of market derived trending indices.

4. Revaluation 'impact' analysis reports that make available at an early stage information about the likely effect of the revaluation on the aggregate tax base.

The study has also shown that the AVM can be used to develop local or regional valuation time trend indices as well as providing detailed analysis to inform stakeholders of the impact of the revaluation much earlier in the process than would traditionally be the case.

Pensions: Emergency Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the real discount rate used by local authorities to calculate the unfunded net present value of the cost of *(a)* police and *(b)* firefighters' pensions was cut from 3.5 per cent. as at 31 March 2004 to 2.4 per cent. as at 31 March 2005; and if she will make a statement. [144631]

Mr. Woolas: The relevant code in the 2003 Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy specified a rate of return of 3.5 per cent. real in respect of

calculating benefit scheme liabilities. The relevant code in the 2004 SORP changed this. It specified the use of an equivalent current rate of return to that of a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities rather than a specific percentage figure. This reflects the Financial Reporting Board Standard 17 issued by the Accounting Standards Board, part of a general move for local authorities to comply with standard accounting practice.

Planning

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will publish a summary of responses to its consultation on the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995; and if she will make a statement. [125159]

Yvette Cooper: The Department consulted last year on proposals to improve the procedure for making article 4 directions to help address the problems that occur with the subdivision of rural land by enabling local planning authorities to bring directions into force more quickly; and to control the demolition of sports buildings by removing permitted development rights.

We received a large number of responses some of which raise complex issues. We expect to publish a summary of responses in July.

Planning Delivery Grant

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for introducing the housing and planning delivery grant; and what the criteria are for determining the level of funding to individual local authorities. [145129]

Yvette Cooper: Following last year's consultation on the Government's proposals, the introduction of and criteria for the housing and planning delivery grant are currently under consideration as part of the wider comprehensive spending review (CSR). The timing of any announcement will be subject to the CSR.

Planning Inspectorate: ICT

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what problems have occurred with the Planning Inspectorate IT system Planning Casework Service since its inception. [144718]

Yvette Cooper: Following rollout of the Planning Casework Service (PCS) PINS has been able to provide a 'public view' of Enforcement and Planning Appeals documentation via publication on the Planning Portal. However, while PINS has encouraged participants in the appeals process to submit documents to it electronically, either online via the Portal or by email, the majority of submissions made by parties remain in paper format.

This required a much greater degree of scanning of these paper submissions than had been forecast and was the main problem encountered with the system. As a consequence PINS reviewed its processes and has temporarily reduced the level of scanning to the main documentation.

PCS continues to allow parties to submit appeals and other supporting documentation online and by email. It also allows interested parties to comment on and track the progress of appeals via the Planning Portal as well as providing a view of the appeal decision once issued.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a value for money evaluation has been carried out on the IT system Planning Casework Service; and if she will make a statement. [144719]

Yvette Cooper: Following rollout of PCS, PINS has followed correct Government protocol in determining value for money. It is preparing a revised benefits realisation plan and has sanctioned a Post Implementation Review, in line with OGC best practice. The review is at an advanced stage and will be followed by a Gateway 5 review.

Planning Permission: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications from the London borough of Bexley were *(a)* allowed and *(b)* dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last two years. [144817]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Appeals allowed and dismissed in the London borough of Bexley are as follows.

Financial year	*Allowed*	*% allowed*	*Dismissed*	*% dismissed*	*Total*
2005-06	39	33.91	76	66.09	115
2006-07	36	30.00	84	70.00	120
Grand total	75	31.91	160	68.09	235

Planning: Housing Improvements

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Part M of the Building Regulations applies to extensions built on houses; and if she will make a statement on the rules on accessibility for people with disabilities to house extensions applied by her Department. [143688]

Angela E. Smith: Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2000, as amended by the Building (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/2692), states, for Part M,

"The requirements of this Part do not apply to ... an extension of ... a dwelling".

Accessibility for people with disabilities to house extensions is therefore a matter for the householder, not for Government.

Polytunnels: Planning Permission

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the extent to which planning procedures apply to the erection of agricultural polytunnels; what discussions she has had with Herefordshire county council on its proposals for planning procedures for polytunnels; and if she will make a statement. [131020]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have not set out a specific planning policy on agricultural polytunnels. Whether something counts as development will depend on the circumstances of the case.

A recent High Court decision on Tuesley farm concluded in that case the polytunnels did constitute development; however, local planning authorities must consider each case on its merits.

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria are for the distribution of funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund to local authorities. [141730]

Ruth Kelly: The Guidance Note issued to Government Offices and local authorities in England in February 2007 which outlines the criteria used can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506075

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library of the House.

Property Development: Contamination

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department has a target for the proportion of new development to take place on currently contaminated land in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Anglia; [144439]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the potential use of contaminated land for *(a)* projected house building targets and *(b)* non-domestic purposes in (i) England and (ii) East Anglia. [144444]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not have a target for the proportion of new development to take place on contaminated land. It is for regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to make assessments of potential land that might be suitable for housing and other development uses as part of the plan making process. Strict environmental health regulations are in place to ensure that any contaminated land is fully remediated before any development takes place.

Property: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what access the Valuation Office Agency has to *(a)* the Electronic Survey of Empty Homes, *(b)* the National Register of Social Housing, *(c)* the Register of Licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation and *(d)* the Housing Data Warehouse. [143636]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 521-22W.

Property: Photographs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1164W, on the Valuation Office, how many photographs were held for properties in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* each local authority in England and Wales. [129270]

Mr. Woolas: As at November 2006 there were 23.5 million domestic properties entered in the council tax lists in England and Wales. This was rounded to 23 million in the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1164W. Photographs were attached to 3.1 per cent. of the 22.2 million domestic properties in England and 9.6 per cent. of the 1.3 million domestic properties in Wales. There are therefore photographs attached to approximately 3.5 per cent. of domestic addresses in England and Wales combined rather than the 3.3 per cent. quoted in that previous answer.

A breakdown by local authority cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Rough Sleepers

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were sleeping rough in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; and what the most recent figure is for each. [115286]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have published a national rough sleeping estimate each year since the Prime Minister introduced the rough sleeping target in 1998 to achieve a two-thirds reduction from 1,850. The following table shows the historical data for London and England as extracted from the national estimate. We do not hold information for 1997.

	London	*England*
1998	621	1,850
1999	635	1,633
2000	546	1,180
2001	357	703
2002	321	596
2003	267	504
2004	265	508
2005	221	459
2006	267	502

Smoking: Litter

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether ring-fenced funding has been provided to local authorities from central Government to compensate for the extra costs of litter collection arising from the public smoking ban in England. [143744]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

No additional funding has been provided by my Department. However, the Government have prepared for possible consequences of England going Smokefree on 1 July, including the potential increase in smoking-related litter.

In May this year, the Government published guidance for local authorities on smoking litter prevention, which was sent to all authorities in England. DEFRA has also funded four smoking litter campaigns for the current financial year. These campaigns have been organised by Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS), the organisation that runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

Central to this work is the issue of behaviour change. If smokers refrained from discarding their cigarette butts on the street, smoking-related litter would not be a problem. This is why, through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, we took the opportunity to clarify that smoking-related litter is in fact litter. As a consequence, anyone disposing of a cigarette butt is committing a littering offence, punishable with a fixed penalty notice fine or prosecution in the magistrates court. The Government continue to encourage local authorities to use their powers in this regard to take action, where appropriate, against those discarding smoking-related litter.

We are also in the process of amending the Street Litter Control Notices Order 1991 to extend the types of premises currently falling within the scope of the Street Litter Control Notice provisions. This will enable them to be used against places which may attract outside smokers, including pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes and other eating and drinking venues. It is intended to commence this power on 1 July 2007. When there is a suitable opportunity, we also intend to amend both primary and secondary legislation so that Street Litter Control Notices can also be used in respect of offices.

In instances where a partnership approach to deal with a litter or refuse problem has failed, Street Litter Control Notices can be used by local authorities to set out what can reasonably be required of the occupier of the premises in question to minimise the detrimental impact of their operation—for example, providing bins and keeping a defined area clear of litter, including smoking-related litter.

Social Rented Housing

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of social housing units built in *(a)* the London borough of Merton, *(b)* south-west London and *(c)* London in each of the last five years. [121555]

Yvette Cooper: The number of social rent homes built or acquired in each London borough in each of the last five years is tabulated as follows. Communities and Local Government do not define an area for south-west London so figures have been provided for each London borough.

Social rent homes provided by sponsoring local authority

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]
City of London	76	88	0	48	178
Barking and Dagenham	279	162	124	163	190
Barnet	145	177	113	142	216
Bexley	33	143	48	31	46
Brent	415	196	225	158	168
Bromley	147	168	90	60	212
Camden	164	126	81	188	72
Croydon	398	264	82	156	184
Ealing	119	120	122	171	188
Enfield	437	303	238	254	236
Greenwich	324	217	410	135	184
Hackney	271	300	226	234	130
Hammersmith and Fulham	132	116	358	166	68
Haringey	234	127	241	164	226
Harrow	113	102	90	52	25
Havering	183	36	28	69	6
Hillingdon	237	118	128	84	74
Hounslow	182	110	237	81	94
Islington	111	183	261	187	253
Kensington and Chelsea	114	121	178	25	79
Kingston upon Thames	66	41	39	127	4
Lambeth	166	215	206	173	288
Lewisham	196	191	257	399	318
Merton	103	75	55	108	101
Newham	351	246	217	281	266
Redbridge	258	159	90	179	92
Richmond upon Thames	41	13	98	123	60
Southwark	205	287	231	301	252
Sutton	127	161	111	214	266
Tower Hamlets	387	380	431	194	675
Waltham Forest	239	232	182	77	133
Wandsworth	49	61	49	98	9
Westminster	307	172	120	215	280
London	6,609	5,410	5,386	5,057	5,573

[1] Provisional.

Source:
Housing Corporation, local authority statistical returns.

Somerset County Council: Manpower

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many personnel were employed by Somerset county council in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2002-03, *(c)* 2003-04, *(d)* 2004-05 and *(e)* 2005-06. [143967]

Mr. Woolas: Somerset county council employed the following (from the March of each year):

	Full-time equivalents
2001-02	9,481
2002-03	9,968
2003-04	11,719
2004-05	11,956
2005-06	12,377

The changes have occurred as a result of some increases in schools, employees, both teaching and non-teaching and also as a result of Local Management of Schools and the re-internalisation of some services.

The increase in joint working and partnership working, with external funding—examples are the NHS, the Supporting People Programme, National Care Standards, the Older People's Commissioning Strategy, the Early Years Initiative, Care Direct, Surestart and Passenger Transport has also increased staff levels. In all these cases the county council has been the nominated employer.

Temporary Accommodation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of children living in *(a)*

bed and breakfast and *(b)* temporary accommodation; and if she will make a statement. [116375]

Yvette Cooper: Information reported quarterly by local authorities includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter, as arranged by the local authority under homelessness legislation. The number of these households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman has been reported since March 2002, and the number of children or expected children in these households has been reported since June 2004.

Latest figures, for 30 September 2006, show that there were 1,871 dependent children in bed-and-breakfast style accommodation and 129,341 in all forms of total temporary accommodation. These figures also include expected children when a pregnant woman is part of the household.

The Government have made significant progress in tackling the use of inappropriate temporary accommodation for families assisted under the homelessness legislation. In March 2002, the Government set a target that no family with children should have to live in bed and breakfast provided as temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation for more than six weeks. At that time, there were 6,960 families living in bed and breakfast as temporary accommodation, of which it was estimated that between 3,500 and 4,000 had been in bed and breakfast for more than six weeks. The target was met by 31 March 2004 and, to ensure it would be sustained, the Government made the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003, which came into force on 1 April 2004. The effect of the order is that, under the homelessness legislation, bed and breakfast cannot not be regarded as suitable accommodation for families with children unless alternative accommodation is not available, and even then cannot be regarded as suitable for more than six weeks.

In addition, in January 2005 the Government announced in "Homes for All" its commitment to halve the number of all households in temporary accommodation by 2010, and more recently on 14 November 2006, a further commitment that by 2010, no 16 or 17-year-olds should be placed in bed-and-breakfast accommodation by a local authority under the homelessness legislation, except in an emergency.

Temporary Accommodation: Children

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children were recorded as living in *(a)* temporary, *(b)* non-decent and *(c)* overcrowded accommodation in each local authority in the Eastern Region since 2004. [139248]

Yvette Cooper: Information reported quarterly by local authorities includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter, as arranged by the local authority under homelessness legislation. The number of children or expected children in these households has been reported since June 2004. Figures reported by all local authorities, including those in the East of England, are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Estimates of the number of children living in non-decent homes in each of the East of England boroughs are not available. However, estimates derived from the 2003 English House Condition Survey suggest 300,000 children live in homes that did not meet the decent homes standard in the East of England in 2003. This is a modelled estimate.

Estimates of the number of children living in overcrowded households in each of the East of England boroughs are not available. However, for the whole of the East of England it is estimated, from the Survey of English Housing, that there were 71,000 children living in overcrowded households (averaged over the period 2003-04 to 2005-06).

There is a measure of overlap between the different housing problems with a proportion of children living in homes with two or all three problems identified. It is not possible to directly assess this overlap.

Urban Areas: Cheltenham

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely population of the Cheltenham urban area referred to in the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West 2006 to 2026 *(a)* with and *(b)* without implementation of the RSS, broken down by age bands, for each year from 2006 to 2026. [144985]

Yvette Cooper: The total population of the Cheltenham borough area given in the 2001 Census was 110,013. For the urban area, which excludes rural parts of the borough but includes the contiguous urban area, which crosses local authority boundaries, the Census figure was 110,320. The most recent population projections published by the Office for National Statistics for the local authority area indicate a population increase from 111,900 in 2006 to 120,100 in 2026. The projections are trend-based and policy neutral. They do not illustrate either the implementation or the non-implementation of any strategy but indicate a continuation of existing trends. Unfortunately these projections are not published for the contiguous urban area.

The proposed housing figures contained in the draft RSS were submitted by the South West Regional Assembly based on proposals put to it by Gloucestershire county council. The hon. Member for Cheltenham would need to ask those bodies what assumptions they have made about the likely population of the Cheltenham area and the implications of the implementation or non-implementation of those RSS proposals. Following the end of the current Examination in Public of the RSS in July this year and the subsequent submission of the Panel report, the Government will then consider the recommendations in it, and the most up-to-date evidence, before considering the need to accept the RSS or propose changes to it.

Vacant Land: Solihull

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* parkland and *(b)* greenfield land has been developed on in Solihull in the last 10 years. [145029]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Local planning authorities are primarily responsible for approving development in their areas.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 996W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if she will list the sources which the Valuation Office Agency uses to obtain such information. [145481]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Westminster City Council: Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will seek a report from Westminster city council on the number of statutorily homeless households currently being placed in temporary accommodation outside its area. [145181]

Yvette Cooper: Officials are working closely with Westminster council to ensure, wherever possible, that homeless households that are placed into temporary accommodation remain within the borough.

Written Questions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to Questions *(a)* 136471, *(b)* 136475 and *(c)* 136474, on home information packs, tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 3 May 2007. [140351]

Ruth Kelly: I answered Questions 136471 and 136474 on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1528W. Question 136475 was answered on 25 June 2007.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a substantive reply to question 139884, on home information packs, tabled by the hon. Member for Aylesbury on 23 May for named day answer on 4 June. [145602]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 25 June 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to reduce opium *(a)* production and *(b)* export from Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [145515]

Dr. Howells: Further to the written answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) gave to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W, I can report that, with our assistance, the Afghan Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) has now convicted 390 people (including three medium value traffickers) for drugs offences since May 2005. In April, the CJTF convicted 27 people for possession of up to 58 kg of heroin and 1,283 kg of opium, sentencing them to between 10 to 16 years.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her colleagues at the Ministry of Defence on how long she expects a British military presence to remain in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [145509]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence regularly discuss the role of British forces in Afghanistan. These discussions are central to the UK's joint civilian-military approach there. The current mandate for our troops, who are in Afghanistan at the invitation of the Afghan Government and as part of the UN-mandated, NATO-led international security assistance force, expires in 2009. We expect, however, that UK forces will be needed in Afghanistan beyond this. The size and duration of the UK military presence will depend on a number of factors including the ability of Afghan security forces to take greater responsibility for the security of their own country.

Armed Conflict: Diamonds

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking on the international trade in conflict diamonds; and what discussions she has had with her counterparts in the *(a)* Liberian and *(b)* Sierra Leonean Governments on the matter. [145577]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is fully committed to implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The body responsible for this, the Government Diamond Office (GDO), is a department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and works closely with HM Revenue and Customs, the UK diamond industry and civil society groups to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the KPCS document.

The UK is supportive of the current European Union Chairmanship of the KPCS, which began on 1 January. The FCO has provided funds for the European Commission to second additional staff for the duration of the Chairmanship. An official from the GDO has taken part in a review visit to Romania and formed part of the recent review mission to Ghana, as part of wider efforts to ensure full compliance of the KPCS among all participants in order to eradicate the trade in conflict diamonds. A GDO official will be taking part in the forthcoming review visit to Bulgaria.

The UK supported the recent lifting of UN sanctions on the diamond trade in Liberia, following an inspection from the Kimberley Process Expert Mission which confirmed that Liberia had the necessary systems in place in order to ensure compliance with the KPCS.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with her counterparts in Liberia and Sierra Leone on the international trade in conflict diamonds.

Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Ministerial colleagues at the Ministry of Defence on the length of time she expects a military presence to remain in *(a)* Bosnia and *(b)* Kosovo; and if she will make a statement. [145578]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments about military commitments in the Balkans.

The UK works closely with our international partners, both in NATO and the EU, to ensure that an appropriate military presence is maintained. There are two military missions—NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the EU military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) Operation Althea. Both are subject to regular review to ensure their posture remains appropriate. The UK currently contributes around 200 troops to KFOR and a handful of staff officers in EUFOR headquarters, along with a battalion to the shared EU-NATO Balkans operation reserve force.

China: Dual Nationality

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to persuade China to recognise dual nationality. [139863]

Mr. McCartney: We are not currently engaged with the Chinese Government specifically on the recognition of dual nationality.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people imprisoned in China have joint British/Chinese nationality. [139865]

Mr. McCartney: The Chinese Government does not recognise dual nationality and thus British nationals of Chinese descent detained in China are considered Chinese. The authorities do not notify us of the detention of people in this category. We do not know how many may be detained.

Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1215W, on Cyprus, what recent progress has been made on a UN-brokered solution to the situation in Cyprus. [145954]

Mr. Hoon: As I stated in my reply to my hon. Friend on 22 May, *Official Report*, column 1215W, the division of the island can only be resolved through a comprehensive settlement brokered by the UN. Although there have been no positive developments since that date, we continue to urge both sides to show political will and flexibility to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement. The status quo is unacceptable and negotiations on a final political solution have been at an impasse for too long.

Cyprus: Trade

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the operation of the Green Line regulation adopted by the EU for trade between the two communities in Cyprus; and if she will make a statement. [145945]

Mr. Hoon: The Green Line continues to contribute towards intra-island trade and economic interaction between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. We welcome all such interaction. The scope of goods able to cross the Green Line under the regulation remains limited which itself restricts the volume of trade occurring. As the EU Commission acknowledged in its 2006 annual report, both political and practical obstacles remain to the effective functioning of the regulation. The Government continue to encourage both sides to lift all restrictions to maximise the potential of the Regulation.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144928]

Mr. Hoon: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by staff in her Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145293]

Mr. Hoon: The amounts spent by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff based in the UK were:

Corporate credit card

	Expenditure (£)	*Number of card holders*
2004-05	260,821	180
2005-06	917,493	570
2006-07	2,767,719	814

Procurement card

	Expenditure (£)	*Number of card holders*
2004-05	674,275	102
2005-06	688,879	122
2006-07	1,036,969	161

The FCO also uses a catering card. The expenditure on this card in 2006-07 was £358,985.

Fuel cards are used for the purchase of fuel and oil in the UK and for fuel, tolls and recovery in the rest of Europe. It is not possible to obtain precise figures for expenditure on these cards at present, but the expenditure is estimated to be less than €1,000 per month.

Many posts overseas use corporate credit cards issued by local providers. Information about the amount spent using these cards is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Our existing corporate credit card scheme began an expansion at the beginning of 2006. One of the main reasons for the expansion was the need to reduce the burden on our overseas posts who had up to this point been required to provide subsistence and pay for hotels for officers visiting overseas posts on official duty. The corporate credit card is used by the vast majority of officers for travel costs and costs associated with official entertainment. The increased expenditure on both the corporate credit card and the procurement card is a result of encouraging FCO staff to make increased use of these cards. We see these cards as a cost-effective and efficient way of paying for lower value goods and services.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144927]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) purchased the following number of energy saving lightbulbs in the years requested for our estate in the UK.

	Number
2005	2,000
2006	3,100

The FCO has a policy of, where possible, replacing inefficient lightbulbs on failure with energy efficient ones, and as part of general energy saving programmes. We frequently review available options to maximise the energy efficiency of our lighting.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145940]

Mr. McCartney: The Concordat on International Relations (D3) between the Government and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee is contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive Committee. The Memorandum and associated Concordats, (Cm 5240), was presented to Parliament and a copy placed in the Library of the House in December 2001.

The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001 continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Departments: Official Cars

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cars her Department owns. [145571]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services UK based fleet operates 14 cars.

We are unable to provide details covering all overseas fleet cars without incurring disproportionate cost as officials would need to contact all of our overseas missions to collate this information.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of staff in her Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145681]

Mr. Hoon: At 1 April for 2005, 2006 and 2007 the percentages of staff over 60 employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) were as follows:

	Percentage
1 April 2005	5.4
1 April 2006	4.9
1 April 2007	3.3

The FCO abolished the compulsory retirement age for all staff below the level of the senior management structure (senior civil service equivalent) in 2006.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145705]

Mr. Hoon: The details of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in these age groups recruited since 2004 are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Staff aged 55 to 60*	*Percentage of staff recruited*	*Staff aged 60 plus*	*Percentage of staff recruited*
2004-05	18	4.2	4	0.9
2005-06	25	4.7	8	1.5
2006-07	25	4	4	0.6

The FCO no longer imposes a mandatory retirement age on staff below the senior management structure (senior civil service equivalent) level.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many public consultations her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145276]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not carried out any public consultations in the last 12 months.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff surveys her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145259]

Mr. Hoon: In the last 12 months the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has conducted the following staff engagement surveys:

Two separate "wave" surveys (designed to follow up our all-staff engagement survey undertaken in January/February 2006) were conducted in September 2006 and January 2007. Each wave survey targeted 25 per cent. of our staff. The total cost of both wave surveys was £12,409.38.

UKvisas carried out a staff engagement survey of UKvisas local staff in early 2007 at a cost of £3,719.81.

As part of its Investors in People accreditation the FCO carries out e-surveys. In tranche 1 (October/November 2006) the FCO conducted e-surveys covering 14 FCO departments and overseas posts. The cost was £2,453.

Within the last 12 months, FCO Services separately conducted an opinion survey of all its staff. Costs for the survey totalled £18,512, with supplementary reporting currently being undertaken at an estimated cost of £4,600.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the 10 largest missions abroad are; and how many *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* locally-engaged personnel are employed in each such mission. [145007]

Mr. Hoon: The 10 Foreign and Commonwealth Office missions overseas with the highest numbers of UK civil servants among their staff are:

Post	*Number of UK-based staff*	*Number of locally engaged staff*
Islamabad	145	446
Kabul	118	62
Beijing	115	182
New Delhi	108	512
UK Permanent Representation to the European Union (Brussels)	99	51
Lagos	86	332
Washington	77	197
Moscow	74	160
Paris	67	168
UK mission to the United Nations (New York)	53	43

The staffing of our posts overseas is subject to constant review, and regular change, to ensure that it continues to reflect our business priorities.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK diplomatic representation has been *(a)* downgraded and *(b)* ended since 1997. [145341]

Mr. Hoon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 467-68W. There have been no changes in our diplomatic representation since then.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to benefit the British taxpayer.

Diplomatic Service: Crime

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many notifiable offences were committed by foreign diplomats based in London in 2006, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* country of diplomatic status; and if she will make a statement. [144558]

Mr. Hoon: We were notified by the police of 126 alleged criminal offences committed in 2006 by the approximately 24,000 individuals entitled to diplomatic immunity in the UK. 15 of these alleged offences were serious offences that would, in certain circumstances, have carried a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary provided details of these alleged serious offences in her written ministerial statement of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 94-96WS. The following table lists the other alleged offences not included in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement:

	Number
Actual bodily harm	
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Kuwait	1
Nigeria	1
Breach of the peace	
Brazil	1
Common assault	
Mongolia	1
Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice/obstructing the police	
Sierra Leone	1
Dangerous driving	
Argentina	1
Driving while using a mobile phone	
Nigeria	1
Driving without due care and attention	
Brunei	1
Israel	1
Failure to stop (after an accident)	
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	1
Failure to stop (at a red traffic signal)	
Korea	2
Egypt	1
Oman	1
Sudan	1
Venezuela	2
Parking offence	
Iran	1
Kenya	1
Libya	1
Speeding	
Afghanistan	1
Albania	1
Argentina	2
Australia	1
Bahrain	1
Brazil	1
Brunei	2
Bulgaria	1
Canada	2
Chile	4
China	2
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	1
Egypt	1
Finland	1

	Number
Germany	6
Ghana	1
Hungary	2
International Organisation Officials	18
Israel	1
Italy	1
Japan	2
Korea	5
Kuwait	1
Liberia	1
Malaysia	1
Mauritius	1
Mexico	2
Mongolia	3
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Sierra Leone	1
Spain	4
UAE	1
USA	4
Theft (shoplifting)	
Azerbaijan	1
Georgia	1
Jordan	1
North Korea	1
Pakistan	1
Thailand	1
Theft	
Nigeria	1
Traffic offences	
Jordan	1
International Organisation Officials	1
Ukraine	1

EC Action: Common Positions

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which third countries EU common positions have been agreed; and on what date each such position was *(a)* agreed and *(b)* most recently amended. [144257]

Mr. Hoon: EU Common Positions that have been agreed in respect of the following third countries on the dates given:

Afghanistan

Common Position 96/746/CFSP (17/12/1996)
Common Position 1999/73/CFSP (25/01/1999)
Common Position 2000/55/CFSP (24/01/2000), replaced by:
Common Position 2001/56/CFSP (22/01/2001), repealed by:
Common Position 2002/42/CFSP (21/01/2002)

Albania

Common Position 97/357/CFSP (02/06/1997)

Angola

Common Position 95/413/CFSP (02/10/1995), replaced by:
Common Position 2000/391/CFSP (19/06/2000), replaced by:
Common Position 2002/495/CFSP (29/06/2002), repealed by:
Common Position 2005/82/CFSP (31/01/2005)

Common Position 97/759/CFSP (30/10/1997), repealed by:
Common Position 2002/991/CFSP (19/12/2002)

Common Position 98/425/CFSP (03/07/1998), repealed by:
Common Position 2002/991/CFSP (19/12/2002)

Belarus

Common Position 98/448/CFSP (09/07/1998), repealed by:
Council Decision 1999/156/CFSP (22/02/1999)

Common Position 2004/661/CFSP (24/09/2004), last amended by:
Common Position 2006/362/CFSP (20/05/2006), last extended by:
Common Position 2007/173/CFSP (19/03/2007)

Burma

Common Position 96/635/CFSP (28/10/1996), last amended and extended by:
Common Position 2002/831/CFSP (21/10/2002), replaced by:
Common Position 2003/297/CFSP (28/04/2003)

Common Position 2004/423/CFSP (26/04/2004), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2005/340/CFSP (25/04/2005)

Common Position 2006/318/CFSP (27/04/2006), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2007/248/CFSP (23/04/2007)

Burundi

Common Position 95/91/CFSP (24/03/1995)

Cuba

Common Position 96/697/CFSP (02/12/1996)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Common Position 2006/795/CFSP (20/11/2006)

Democratic Republic of Congo

Common Position 1999/722/CFSP (08/11/1999)
Common Position 1999/728/CFSP (15/11/1999), replaced by:
Common Position 2001/83/CFSP (29/01/2001), replaced by:
Common Position 2002/203/CFSP (11/03/2002), replaced by:
Common Position 2003/319/CFSP (08/05/2003), repealed by:
Common Position 2005/82/CFSP (31/01/2005)

Common Position 2002/829/CFSP (21/10/2002), last amended by:
Common Position 2003/680/CFSP (29/09/2003), replaced by:
Common Position 2005/440/CFSP (15/06/2005), last amended by:
Common Position 2006/624/CFSP (16/09/2006)

East Timor

Common Position 96/407/CFSP (25/06/1996)
Common Position 1999/479/CFSP (19/07/1999)

Ethiopia and Eritrea

Common Position 1999/206/CFSP (15/03/1999), last amended by:
Common Position 2000/584/CFSP (29/09/2000), last extended by:
Common Position 2001/215/CFSP (19/03/2001
Common Position 2000/420/CFSP (29/06/2000)

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Common Position 95/150/CFSP (28/04/1995)
Common Position 95/213/CFSP (12/06/1995)
Common Position 95/254/CFSP (07/07/1995)
Common Position 95/378/CFSP (19/09/1995)
Common Position 95/511/CFSP (04/12/1995)

Common Position 98/240/CFSP (19/03/1998), last amended by:
Common Position 2001/719/CFSP (08/10/2001)
Common Position 98/326/CFSP (07/05/1998), last amended by:
Common Position 2000/696/CFSP (10/11/2000)
Common Position 98/374/CFSP (08/06/1998), last amended by:
Common Position 2000/599/CFSP (09/10/2000), repealed by:
Common Position 2000/696/CFSP (10/11/2000)
Common Position 98/426/CFSP (1998), repealed by:
Common Position 2000/176/CFSP (28/02/2000)
Common Position 98/725/CFSP (14/12/1998), last amended by:
Common Position 2000/696/CFSP (10/11/2000), repealed by:
Common Position 2001/155/CFSP (26/02/2001)
Common Position 1999/273/CFSP (23/04/1999), last amended by:
Common Position 1999/604/CFSP (03/09/1999), repealed by:
Common Position 2000/599/CFSP (09/10/2000)
Common Position 1999/318/CFSP (10/05/1999), last amended by:
Common Position 2001/155/CFSP (26/02/2001)
Common Position 1999/691/CFSP (22/10/99)

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), United Nations protected areas in the Republic of Croatia, areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under control of the Bosnian Serb forces

Common Position 96/708/CFSP (09/12/1996)

Former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Common Position 96/184/CFSP (26/02/1996), last amended by:
Common Position 2001/719/CFSP (08/10/2001), repealed by:
Common Position 2006/29/CFSP (23/01/2006)

Former Yugoslavia (International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia)

Common Position 2003/280/CFSP (16/04/2003)
Common Position 2004/293/CFSP (30/03/2004), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2007/150/CFSP (05/03/2007)
Common Position 2004/694/CFSP (14/10/2004), last amended by:
Common Position 2005/689/CFSP (06/10/2005), last extended by:
Common Position 2006/671/CFSP (05/10/2006)

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Common Position 2001/542/CFSP (16/07/2001), replaced by:
Common Position 2004/133/CFSP (11/02/2004), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2007/86/CFSP (07/02/2007)

Iraq

Common Position 96/741/CFSP (17/12/1996), replaced by:
Common Position 2003/495/CFSP (08/07/2003)
Common Position 2002/599/CFSP (22/07/2002), replaced by:
Common Position 2003/495/CFSP (08/07/2003)
Common Position 2003/495/CFSP (08/07/2003), last amended by:
Common Position 2004/553/CFSP (20/07/2004)

Iran

Common Position 2007/140/CFSP (27/02/2007), last amended by:
Common Position 2007/246/CFSP (23/04/2007)

Ivory Coast

Common Position 2004/852/CFSP (13/12/2004), last amended by:
Common Position 2006/30/CFSP (23/01/2006), last extended by:
Common Position 2007/92/CFSP (12/02/2007)

Lebanon

Common Position 2005/888/CFSP (12/12/2005)
Common Position 2006/625/CFSP (15/09/2006)

Liberia

Common Position 2001/357/CFSP (07/05/2001), last extended by:
Common Position 2002/457/CFSP (13/06/2002), last amended by:
Common Position 2003/666/CFSP (22/09/2003), replaced by:
Common Position 2003/771/CFSP (27/10/2003), replaced by:
Common Position 2004/137/CFSP (10/02/2004), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2007/400/CFSP (11/07/2007)
Common Position 2004/487/CFSP (29/04/2004)

Libya

Common Position 1999/261/CFSP (16/04/1999), replaced by:
Common Position 2004/698/CFSP (14/10/2004)

Moldovan Republic (Transnistrian Region)

Common Position 2003/139/CFSP (27/02/2003)
Common Position 2004/179/CFSP (24/02/2004), last extended and amended by:
Common Position 2007/121/CFSP (19/02/2007)

Nigeria

Common Position 95/515/CFSP (20/10/1995), last amended by:
Common Position 98/614/CFSP (30/10/1998), repealed by:
Common Decision 1999/347/CFSP (17/05/1999)
Common Position 95/544/CFSP (04/12/1995), last extended by:
Council Decision 97/821/CFSP (28/10/1997)
Common Position 2001/373/CFSP (14/05/2001), replaced by:
Common Position 2002/401 /CFSP (27/05/2002), repealed by:
Common Position 2005/82/CFSP (31/01/2005)

Republic of Indonesia

Common Position 1999/624/CFSP (16/09/1999)

Rwanda

Common Position 94/697/CFSP (24/10/1994), replaced by:
Common Position 98/252/CFSP (30/03/1998), replaced by:
Common Position 1999/452/CFSP (12/07/1999), replaced by:
Common Position 2000/558/CFSP (18/09/2000), replaced by:
Common Position 2001/759/CFSP (19/11/2001), replaced by:
Common Position 2002/830/CFSP (21/10/2002), repealed by:
Common Position 2005/82/CFSP (31/01/2005)

Sierra Leone

Common Position 97/826/CFSP (08/12/1997), last amended by:
Common Position 98/409/CFSP (29/06/1998)
Common Position 98/300/CFSP (27/04/1998)
Common Position 98/409/CFSP (01/07/1998)
Common Position 2000/455/CFSP (20/07/2000)
Common Position 2002/22/CFSP (11/01/2002)
Common Position 2002/992/CFSP (19/12/2002)

Somalia

Common Position 2002/960/CFSP (10/12/2002), last amended by:
Common Position 2007/391/CFSP (07/06/2007)

Sudan

Common Position 2004/31/CFSP (09/01/2004), last amended by:

Common Position 2004/510/CFSP (10/06/2004), replaced by:

Common Position 2005/411/CFSP (30/05/2005)

Ukraine

Common Position 94/779/CFSP (28/11/1994)

Uzbekistan

Common Position 2005/792/CFSP (14/11/2005), last extended by:

Common Position 2007/338/CFSP (14/05/2007)

Zimbabwe

Common Position 2002/145/CFSP (18/02/2002), last amended and extended by:

Common Position 2003/115/CFSP (18/02/2003)

Common Position 2004/161/CFSP (20/02/2004), last extended and amended by:

Common Position 2007/120/CFSP (19/02/2007).

Egypt: Frontiers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Egyptian counterpart on steps to secure its border with Gaza; and if she will make a statement. [145819]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with her Egyptian counterpart ahead of the Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting on 15 June. They discussed the current situation in Gaza including security. Our embassy in Cairo remains in close contact with the Egyptian Government on the situation in Gaza and on the border.

Entry Clearances: USA

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances US citizens may be denied entry to live in the UK by UK Visas. [144315]

Dr. Howells: US citizens will be refused entry clearance if they fail to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer (ECO) that their application meets the criteria of the immigration rules. In all cases, other than applications for Family Reunion of recognised refugees, the ECO must be satisfied that there will be no recourse to public funds. The criteria vary according to the visa endorsement category applied for.

The full immigration rules regarding criteria of settlement applications are available on the Borders and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/iminigrationrules/

Eritrea: Religious Freedom

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Eritrean Government on the detention of Christians, including children, in that country by the Eritrean Security Forces. [145465]

Mr. McCartney: The detention without charge by the Eritrean Government of members of minority religious groups, including Christians, is unacceptable and contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party.

We make our concerns about the human rights situation in Eritrea known to the Eritrean Government whenever appropriate, including by our ambassador in Asmara, and in contacts with the Eritrean ambassador and other senior Eritrean officials in London. We will continue to remind Eritrea of its human rights obligations, including through the EU political dialogue with Eritrea. The UK is in touch with the German Presidency of the EU and our other EU partners on human rights issues in Eritrea.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Eritrean Government on reported human rights violations against Christians in that country; and if she will make a statement. [145466]

Mr. McCartney: The UK remains deeply concerned about Eritrea's human rights record. Actions against members of minority religious groups that contravene international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party are unacceptable.

We make our concerns about the human rights situation in Eritrea known to the Eritrean Government whenever appropriate, through contacts in Asmara and London. We will continue to remind Eritrea of its human rights obligations, including through the EU political dialogue with Eritrea. The UK is in touch with the German Presidency of the EU and our other EU partners on human rights issues in Eritrea.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the recent conviction of members of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy in Ethiopia; what discussions she has had with her Ethiopian counterpart on these convictions; and if she will make a statement. [143080]

Margaret Beckett: On 11 June, judges in the trial of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) leadership ruled that those members who chose not to defend themselves were all guilty of one or more charges brought against them by the prosecution. Sentencing is scheduled around 8 July. Cases for those who have chosen to defend themselves began on 18 June.

I have not discussed the convictions of the CUD leadership with my Ethiopian counterpart.

We are unable to interfere in the judicial affairs of other countries. However, we continue to monitor the ongoing trial of the CUD leadership. We urge the government and all political parties in Ethiopia to commit themselves to resolving their differences through dialogue.

European Union: Presidency Report

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons a copy of the report by the German presidency of the EU released on 19 June 2007 on the mandate for discussion at the summit was not placed in the Library on that day. [145005]

Mr. McCartney: The German presidency released a draft Inter-Governmental Conference mandate on the evening of 19 June. It is not normal practice to place in the Library of the House confidential documents that form part of on-going negotiations with European partners. This document formed part of discussions at the European Council, on which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement to the House on 25 June.

As usual, a copy of the Council Conclusions will be deposited in the Library of the House after the European Council.

Famagusta

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is on the status of *(a)* Famagusta and *(b)* the port at Famagusta. [145953]

Mr. Hoon: Over the years, Famagusta and the Port of Famagusta have been the subject of a series of proposals for confidence building measures. A 2004 proposal from the Government of Cyprus linked preferential Turkish Cypriot trade with the EU through the port of Famagusta, with the return of the closed city of Varosha. Since then, other attempts have been made by a number of EU presidencies to broker a deal. None has been successful. The apparent Turkish Cypriot position is that Varosha will only be returned as part of a comprehensive settlement. Such issues highlight the necessity of a comprehensive and durable settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Fiji: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the safety of British diplomats in Fiji. [144483]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly review the physical and personal security measures for our high commission in Suva and its staff. We remain in close contact on security issues with colleagues at other diplomatic missions based in Suva. We also regularly review the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Travel Advice for Fiji with the high commission.

The full text is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386703

Fiji: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received *(a)* on the likelihood of Fiji holding elections by March 2009 and *(b)* the restoration of democracy in Fiji. [145094]

Mr. McCartney: We receive regular reports on the situation in Fiji from our high commission in Suva and our posts elsewhere in the region. We also discuss Fiji with the EU, Australia, New Zealand and others.

On 18 April the Fiji interim government made a number of commitments to the EU under the terms of the Cotonou agreement. These commitments set out the steps for the return to democracy, including the holding of free and fair elections. Thereafter a team of independent consultants, nominated by the Pacific Islands Forum, released the results of an election feasibility study. The study concluded that elections could be held by March 2009. On 19 June, the Fiji interim government accepted this timetable.

We, with EU partners and others, will continue to monitor progress towards this.

Geneva Convention

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government take *(a)* to comply with Article 1 and *(b)* to prosecute breaches under Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. [145389]

Mr. McCartney: The United Kingdom has signed and ratified the Fourth Geneva Convention and complies with its provisions. Every appropriate opportunity is taken in our bilateral relations and through appropriate international bodies to promote respect for the convention and its articles.

The UK has enacted legislation (Geneva Conventions Act 1957, as amended) to enable prosecutions in respect of the grave breaches set out in article 147 in the UK. Alleged breaches of the convention relevant to the UK that are brought to our attention are investigated by the appropriate authorities. Prosecution decisions are made in accordance with criminal law principles by the appropriate prosecuting authority.

HMS Sussex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any progress has been made on recovering the wreckage of HMS Sussex off the coast of Gibraltar. [145565]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg), on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1985W. The situation remains the same.

Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Commonwealth countries have a policy seeking their prior approval before their citizens are gazetted for a UK honour; and if she will make a statement. [144401]

Dr. Howells: Substantive honours, which appear in the London Gazette, are only given to British citizens and nationals of Commonwealth countries of which Her Majesty The Queen is Head of State. We consult all Governments of the Realms prior to the award of the honour. Similarly, we consult all governments before making honorary British awards to citizens of Commonwealth countries where Her Majesty The Queen is not Head of State.

Ilois: Resettlement

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 238W, on Ilois: resettlement, whether she plans to petition the House of Lords for leave to appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal on 23 May; and if she will make it her policy to abide by that decision. [145088]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is considering the 23 May judgment of the Court of Appeal carefully and has in this regard asked officials for further advice. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reserves the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as she is entitled to do within one month. If she opts to petition the House of Lords and is granted leave to appeal, she would be bound by the decision handed down by the House of Lords as the final court of appeal, but this could not fetter other measures by the Government to address the decision.

The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible further legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

India: Work Permits

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* expected timescale are for the British high commission's investigation in India into possible abuses of the work permit system; and what plans she has to make the investigation report available to hon. Members. [145031]

Dr. Howells: There is no current investigation by our high commission in New Delhi into abuse of work permits. My hon. Friend may be referring to the independent investigation which commenced on 5 June to look into and report on the apparent security breach in respect of the online visa application facility operated by VFS Global on behalf of UKvisas.

The Independent Investigator's terms of reference require an investigation of the circumstances of the apparent, security breach and issues directly associated with it. The investigation will focus on the following key areas: the circumstances surrounding the apparent security breach of the online visa application facility; issues directly associated with this apparent security breach, including the scale of the problem and its likely significance for those who used the online facility during the relevant period; steps taken to address the security breach; and recommendations for further action that may be necessary to address the problem and the consequences thereof.

It is anticipated that the Independent Investigator will report to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary by mid-to-late July. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will thereafter publish the report and lay it before Parliament without amendment. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will also take appropriate steps to ensure that others who should see the report and may have an interest in it will be provided with a copy of the report or have ready access to it.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her colleagues at the Ministry of Defence on how long she expects a British military presence to remain in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [145510]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, (Dr. Howells) are in regular contact with our colleagues at the Ministry of Defence, and indeed with the Government of Iraq and our coalition partners, on the situation in Iraq. British forces are in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Government and under a UN mandate. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 21 February 2007, they will remain in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government wishes us to be there and there is a job to be done. We remain committed to our strategy of building the capacity of the Iraqi security forces, so that lead responsibility for security can progressively be transferred to them.

Iraq: Religious Freedom

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the risk of violence against Christians in Iraq. [145212]

Mr. McCartney: We recognise that Christians in Iraq, like all other communities, have been badly affected by the high levels of violence in the country. We are aware of recent threats received by Christians from extremists in certain areas of Baghdad, in particular in Dora. We have raised this issue with the Iraqi government who are taking measures to increase security in that area. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Ultimately the situation for Christians and other Iraqis will only improve when the security situation improves. We continue to work closely with the Government of Iraq and our coalition partners on this.

Iraq: Travel Restrictions

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what restrictions are in place on Iraqi citizens wishing to travel to the British Embassy in Amman, Jordan, to obtain a visa for travel to the UK; and if she will make a statement. [144783]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not place any restrictions on Iraqi nationals wishing to travel to our embassy in Amman to apply for a UK visa. Iraqi nationals entering Jordan from Iraq or elsewhere are subject to Jordan's customary entry procedures which are entirely a matter for the Jordanian authorities.

Israel: Frontiers

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will urge the Israeli Government to stop the construction of the fence/wall inside the west bank, including East Jerusalem. [145386]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our concerns about the routing of the barrier with the Israeli Government and will continue to do so. We fully recognise Israel's right to self-defence. But the barrier's route should be on or behind the green line, and not on occupied territory. Construction of the barrier on Palestinian land is illegal and is particularly damaging around East Jerusalem where it threatens to divide the west bank in two.

Israel: Palestinians

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to Israel on its obligation as an occupying power to provide for the protection and welfare of the Palestinian population. [145387]

Dr. Howells: We regularly call upon Israel to abide by its international obligations in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We encourage it to ensure the continued provision of services to the people of Gaza, to facilitate humanitarian access and to keep the crossing points open. The humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories underlines the need to maintain the current political processes.

Kashmir: Armed Conflict

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of civilians killed and injured in Jammu and Kashmir as a result of armed conflict since 1989; and if she will make a statement. [145584]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of a range of different estimates for the number of casualties and fatalities caused as a result of the conflict. Our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi monitor these carefully on a regular basis. We continue to urge both India and Pakistan to seek a lasting solution to the issue of Kashmir, which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. We condemn all violence which leads to loss of life or injuries.

Krill: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to assist international conservation efforts with regard to Antarctic krill. [145555]

Mr. Hoon: The UK, led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and supported by scientists from the British Antarctic Survey and Imperial College, plays a leading role in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) which pioneered an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. CCAMLR recognises that krill play a central role in the Antarctic food web. It has therefore taken a number of significant steps, including imposing strict precautionary catch limits to avoid large catches of krill that could compromise the availability of food in key foraging areas of Antarctic fauna.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next hearing will take place in relation to the possibility of clemency for Mr. Krishna Maharaj in Florida. [144396]

Mr. McCartney: I understand that the next hearing in Krishna Maharaj's case will take place in August 2007. We are in close contact with Mr. Maharaj's legal team who we have asked to keep us informed of the exact date.

Languages: Education

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation she conducted with foreign language *(a)* teaching and *(b)* using staff in (i) her and (ii) other departments on the decision to outsource her Department's language-teaching operation. [140408]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* In its review of language training provision, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services consulted stakeholders, including senior language training managers. It decided in light of this work and a review of its wider activities that its language training operation was uneconomic and that it should withdraw from providing language training as it moved to Trading Fund status.

A separate FCO review of language training policy, which concluded that language training needed to be provided in different ways, involved consultation with users of language training services from the FCO and other Government Departments. Following that review, the decision was taken to outsource the language teaching operation.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account was taken of potential cost savings within the existing system for foreign language teaching before the decision was made to outsource the operation. [140409]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* Potential cost savings within the existing system for foreign language teaching were considered, including organising more group training, more intensive courses and more training overseas; but it was concluded that these changes could only support the conclusion of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services review that maintaining a large permanent teaching workforce in London was not viable.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account was taken of the proportion of existing language teaching services that is outsourced in the decision to outsource the whole of the language teaching function. [140498]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* The decision to outsource was taken in order to obtain language training services more cost-effectively. More flexible provision of language teaching will improve efficiency. 40 per cent. of priority language training is already outsourced. Analysis of exam performance suggests that the performance of students is not enhanced by having a permanent workforce.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account was taken of the cost-saving changes and recommendations implemented following the language training review in the decision to outsource her Department's language teaching operation. [140624]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave him today (UIN 140408 and 140409). Although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office review of language training policy made a number of potential cost-saving recommendations, it was concluded that the two reviews of this work and the policy underpinning it supported the strategic business decision to outsource.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what cost-benefit analysis was undertaken of in-house specialised high-level language teaching in relation to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other Government departments before the decision was made to out-source the operation. [140625]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* A detailed cost-benefit analysis was carried out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services review, in relation to the competitiveness of FCO Services' language training for all its customers. FCO Services concluded that it would withdraw from providing these services, and the FCO decided in the light of this and its own review of the policy, that it should move to a new business model.

Members: Correspondence

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will respond to the *(a)* letter of 13 June 2006 and *(b)* e-mail of 29 January 2007 from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield. [144986]

Dr. Howells: I apologise to my hon. Friend for the failure to respond to his letter dated 13 June 2006. This was due to an administrative error. However, I was pleased to meet with him and others from the Britain-Palestine All Party Group on 5 June to discuss relevant matters.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has discussed the current closure of the Karni crossing with her Israeli counterpart; and if she will make a statement. [145820]

Mr. McCartney: We remain concerned about the frequent closure of the Karni crossing point and call upon both parties to implement the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions about the closure of the Karni crossing point with her Israeli counterpart. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised this with the Israeli embassy on 13 June.

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* contribution of EUCOPPS to the promotion of law and order in Palestine and *(b)* constraints on the work of EUCOPPS caused by (i) conflict among Palestinian groups, (ii) actions of the government of Israel and (iii) policies pursued by the international community; and if she will make a statement. [145860]

Mr. McCartney: Created during the UK Presidency of the EU in 2005, the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOLCOPPS) was launched as a three-year European Security and Defence Policy mission on 1 January 2006. EUPOLCOPPS aims to assist in the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan, designed to support the development of a transparent and accountable Palestinian police force and to co-ordinate EU and—where requested—international assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police.

Following the election success of Hamas in January 2006, and the Quartet's statement to suspend all diplomatic and political contacts with and assistance to the newly elected government, the role of EUPOLCOPPS was seriously restricted and was unable to carry out its full mandate. During this period EUPOLCOPPS confined its activities to monitoring and maintenance of existing investments in the Palestinian Civil Police infrastructure, sustaining existing contacts in and around the Palestinian Civil Police and analysing and reporting on developments in the security sector.

We support the re-engagement of EUPOLCOPPS with the Palestinian Authority.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the Middle East peace process includes concrete provisions to address human rights issues. [145388]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned about the human rights situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Roadmap and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions do take into account human rights issues such as freedom of movement and settlements. We regularly raise human rights issues with the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

Nicosia: Immigration

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on why the Ledra Street checkpoint in Nicosia has not yet been opened. [144805]

Mr. Hoon: We strongly support the efforts of the UN to broker an agreement between the parties which would permit the symbolic Ledra Street crossing point to open. It would constitute a significant confidence-building measure between the two communities. This message was reinforced in the resolution on Cyprus adopted by the UN Security Council on 15 June. Although there have been positive gestures by both sides, key issues, including the demarcation of the buffer zone, remain. We continue to believe that the crossing point should be opened on the basis of arrangements used at existing crossing points and call upon all involved to extend their full co-operation to the UN.

Niger: Kidnapping

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with President Umaru Yar'Adua on the taking of hostages in the Niger Delta; and what recent advice her Department has issued for Britons working in the oil industry in the Niger Delta. [145096]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had direct contact with President Yar'Adua on this.

My noble Friend Baroness Royall of Blaisdon told President Yar'Adua of our deep concern about the taking of British hostages and about the overall security situation in the Niger Delta, when she attended the President's inauguration on 29 May. She emphasised to him the need to secure the release of the five British nationals then held hostage peacefully and without recourse to military action. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Byrne), raised the issue of British hostages in similar terms at a meeting with the Nigerian high commissioner on 13 June.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Nigeria was strengthened on 25 May to advise against all travel to three states in the Niger Delta. Following that change a further, consequential amendment was made on 8 June advising that it was unsafe for British nationals to remain in the three states concerned. These reflect the deterioration in the security situation in the Niger Delta since early 2006 and an increase in kidnappings of foreign nationals since 1 May. It stresses the very high risk of kidnapping, armed robbery and other armed attacks against oil and gas industry targets in the Niger Delta and offshore. Our high commissioner in Abuja has informed President Yar'Adua of the reasons for the raised level of travel advice.

Nigeria: Fraud

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in assisting the Nigerian authorities to develop the capacity to tackle e-mail fraud and other financial crime as referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Huddersfield (Mr. Sheerman) of 23 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on Nigeria. [144989]

Mr. McCartney: The UK and Nigerian authorities, including the British Police and the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), have made significant progress on working together to tackle financial crime since 2005.

This co-operation is yielding results. The Metropolitan Police Proceeds of Corruption Unit has so far restrained £34.6 million of Nigerian assets, and nearly £5 million has been returned to the Nigerian authorities. For example, investigations into the finances of ex-governor of Bayelsa State, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, resulted in almost £1 million being returned to Nigeria in July 2006. We have also been active in international fora. In 2005 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided the UN Office on Drugs and Crime with £240,000 for a three year project to strengthen the capacity of the EFCC. We were instrumental in securing European Commission support for US$ 24.7 million for the EFCC to provide equipment and technical support as well as to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system to prosecute in cases of economic and financial crimes, including e-mail fraud.

North Korea: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the main achievements of the UK diplomatic presence in North Korea over the last 12 months. [144997]

Mr. McCartney: Our embassy in Pyongyang has achieved a great deal despite the very difficult operating environment. Our ambassador and officials have been able both to put to Korean ministers our concerns about human rights in their country and to urge them to abandon their nuclear programme. As our embassy is the only representative of the P3 in Pyongyang our voice, especially on these issues, is particularly important.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of North Korea's most recent testing of a short range ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan; and if she will make a statement. [145573]

Dr. Howells: The media reported on 19 June that North Korea had test-fired a short-range missile into the Sea of Japan.

We have since consulted our international partners and concluded that, contrary to initial media reporting, North Korea did not test fire any missiles on 19 June.

Recent media reporting on 21 June also reflected that North Korea did not conduct a missile test launch on 19 June.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received of the *(a)* destruction of orthodox cultural heritage in Northern Cyprus, *(b)* demolition of houses belonging to Greek Cypriots in the Karpass area, *(c)* appropriaton of land belonging to Greek Cypriots in the northern part of Cyprus, *(d)*

agreement of 8 July 2006 between President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat, *(e)* opening of crossing points in Nicosia and Kato Pyrgos and *(f)* measures announced by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on 21 May 2007 in relation to bi-communal programmes and enterprises. [145955]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are not able to prevent property development in northern Cyprus. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement. In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development that does take place does so in a manner that is both environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Similarly, we call on the Turkish Cypriot administration to show sensitivity to Greek Cypriot churches and cemeteries in the north. Our high commissioner in Nicosia visited the Karpas region on 22 June and raised such issues with his Turkish Cypriot interlocutors.

The 8 July 2006 agreement between the leaders of the two communities presented an opportunity to make progress towards a resumption of full settlement negotiations. Despite attempts since by the UN to implement this agreement no real progress has been made. We continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility required to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and engage constructively with the efforts of the UN. Negotiations on a final political solution have been at an impasse for too long.

We consider that confidence-building measures, such as the opening of Ledra Street, and other crossing points, would help bring the two communities closer together. This message was reinforced in the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on Cyprus on 15 June. The Security Council's resolution also expressed concern about the diminishing opportunities for bicommunal activity within Cyprus. As such, we hope that the announcement by the Republic of Cyprus of a package of measures to address this will promote reconciliation between the communities.

Occupied Territories

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she held discussions with EU partners in the week commencing 18 June on Israeli settlement building on the E1 plan and elsewhere in the West Bank; and if she will make a statement. [145810]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not hold any discussions about settlement activity in the West Bank with her EU counterparts in the week commencing 18 June.

Settlements are illegal under international law and settlement activity is an obstacle to peace. The Roadmap is clear that Israel should freeze all settlement construction including the "natural growth" of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. The EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by both parties. We support this. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about settlement activity with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she held discussions with the government of Israel in the week commencing 18 June on the demolition or planned demolition by Israel of homes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if she will make a statement. [145811]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed house demolitions with the Israeli government in the week commencing 18 June.

Punitive house demolitions—the demolition of the homes of the families of suicide bombers and militants—were suspended on 17 February 2005. However, due to Israeli restrictions on the granting of housing permits to Palestinians in Jerusalem, Palestinians often build houses without obtaining permits. These homes are then demolished and heavy fines imposed. We are concerned about Israel's policy of house demolitions, especially in East Jerusalem, which leaves hundreds of Palestinians homeless each year and threatens to change the nature of some areas of the city. We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the Israeli authorities.

Occupied Territories: Exports

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she held discussions with the government of Israel during the week commencing 18 June on the *(a)* labelling and *(b)* claiming of trade preferences on goods produced in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and imported to the EU; and if she will make a statement. [145858]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not had any discussions with the Government of Israel on these issues during the week commencing 18 June.

Under a technical arrangement adopted by the EU-Israel Customs Co-operation Committee on 12 December 2004 all imports from Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and claiming Israeli preferential origin have been required since 1 February 2005 to indicate the place of production and accompanying zip code. The full rate of customs duty is payable on any consignment which is indicated as originating in a settlement.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she held discussions with EU partners during the week commencing 18 June 2007 regarding the effectiveness of EU arrangements for monitoring the importing into the EU of goods produced in Israeli settlements built in the Palestinian territories but labelled as made in Israel; and if she will make a statement. [145862]

Mr. McCartney: EU Foreign Ministers did not discuss settlement goods at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June.

Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences: Christianity

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Pakistani Government on the suspension of Christian students and teaching staff at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences nursing school in Rawalpindi. [145867]

Dr. Howells: We do not usually raise individual cases and have not made representations about the suspension of students and staff at the nursing school in Rawalpindi. However, we do regularly raise our concerns over the difficult situation facing Christian and other minority groups with the Government of Pakistan. Most recently, in May, we again voiced our concerns over the treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan, together with our EU partners.

Pakistan: Honours

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security of British nationals in Pakistan following statements by Pakistani Ministers on Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours. [145933]

Mr. McCartney: In all parts of the world, we monitor local events that may affect British nationals. Where necessary, we change our travel advice to reflect the situation. We are following events closely in Pakistan and changed the travel advice on 19 June to reflect the fact that anti-UK protests and demonstrations might take place.

Palestinians: Arms Trading

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what military equipment has been provided by the UK to President Abbas's security forces; and if she will make a statement. [145818]

Mr. McCartney: In 2005-06, we provided non-lethal equipment to the Palestinian Authority security forces. This included close protection equipment for the Palestinian Presidential Guard and the upgrading and maintenance of communications equipment.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department has offered *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support to the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas; and if she will make a statement. [145569]

Dr. Howells: We continue to support Palestinian President Abbas. At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June, the EU agreed to resume normal relations with the Palestinian Authority and are looking urgently at direct financial support to the government; support to the Palestinian Civilian Police through the resumption of the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOLCOPPS); the resumption of EU Border Assistance Mission Rafah (EUBAM RAFAH); and intensive efforts to build the institutions of the future Palestinian state. The UK has seconded staff to EUPOLCOPPS and the EUBAM RAFAH. In addition, we have provided non-lethal equipment to the Presidential Guard and radio equipment to the Palestinian Civil Police.

We support President Abbas' efforts to move the peace process forward. The Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) have also given their full support to President Abbas.

Palestinians: Political Discussions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* United Nations, *(b)* European Union and *(c)* Arab League on the current situation in the Palestinian occupied territories; and if she will make a statement. [145017]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been actively engaged in discussions on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with Palestinian President Abbas and US Secretary of State Rice on 14 June as well as the Egyptian, Omani and Qatari Foreign Ministers ahead of the Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting on 15 June. She also discussed the current situation with her European counterparts at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June. She has not recently discussed the issue with the UN Secretary-General, although Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with their UN counterparts.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the government of Israel in the week commencing 18 June on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza; and if she will make a statement. [145859]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 18 June. In the week commencing 18 June, our Ambassador in Tel Aviv had extensive discussions with the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, among others.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions she had with EU partners in the week commencing 18 June on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza; and if she will make a statement; [145861]

(2) whether she held discussions with the government of Israel during the week commencing 18 June 2007 on the future of the EU-Israel Association agreement; and if she will make a statement; [145863]

(3) whether she held discussions with the government of Israel in the week commencing 18 June 2007 on the impact of Israel's actions on the effectiveness of association agreements between the EU and Palestine; and if she will make a statement; [145865]

(4) whether she held discussions with EU partners during the week commencing 18 June 2007 on the EU-Israel Association agreement; and if she will make a statement. [145866]

Mr. McCartney: At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, along with other EU Foreign Ministers, discussed the peace process with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni. They discussed the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and next steps. There was no discussion of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she had with the *(a)* Palestine Liberation Organisation and *(b)* Palestinian Authority in the week commencing 18 June on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza; and if she will make a statement. [145864]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials at our Consulate-General in Jerusalem are in regular contact with members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian Authority.

Project Al-Yamamah

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1377W, on Project Al-Yamamah, whether the Economic Counsellor gave a written submission to the Government when he met her Department's officials on 19 January 2007 to discuss the termination of the Serious Fraud Office's investigations; and if she will make a statement. [144612]

Margaret Beckett: The Economic Counsellor from the US embassy gave no written submission on this subject, which was not the main topic of the meeting, when he met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials on 19 January.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1377W, on Project Al-Yamamah, whether she has discussed the issue with her US counterpart; and if she will make a statement. [145111]

Margaret Beckett: There have been no discussions between Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and US counterparts. But my officials have regular contact with their US counterparts at Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development meetings.

Robert Mugabe

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1315W, on Robert Mugabe, what reports she has received on the intentions of the Government of Uganda with respect to inviting President Mugabe to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government; and if she will make a statement. [145174]

Mr. McCartney: President Mugabe withdrew Zimbabwe from the Commonwealth in 2003. Until it rejoins, we do not expect him to be invited to, or to attend, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Russia: Arms Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Russian counterparts on reducing the trade in small arms to Africa; and if she will make a statement. [145576]

Mr. Hoon: The UK continually engages with the international community, including Russia, to improve international standards of arms exports and highlight the devastating effect of poorly regulated arms exports, particularly on sustainable development.

While no specific bilateral discussions have taken place on small arms and light weapons exports and transfers to Africa, regular senior official level talks are held with Russia on export control issues. The most recent meeting was held in London in May. At this meeting, we restated the UK's commitment to improving transfer standards for small arms and light weapons and encouraged Russian participation at a Canadian sponsored meeting in August, which will discuss transfer controls in the context of the UN Programme of Action (to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects). We also encouraged Russian engagement in the UN process, now underway, to take forward the initiative for an Arms Trade Treaty, which will cover the trade in small arms and light weapons.

Russia: British Council

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the activities of the Russian authorities towards the work of the British Council in Russia; and if she will make a statement; [145112]

(2) whether she has raised the treatment of the British Council in Russia with her Russian counterpart; and if she will make a statement; [145113]

(3) what assessment she has made of the progress towards the conclusion of a new Cultural Centres Agreement with Russia; and if she will make a statement; [145114]

(4) what discussions she has had with her European Union counterparts on the *(a)* treatment of the British Council in Russia and *(b)* progress towards the conclusion of a new Cultural Centres Agreement; what the outcome was of those discussions; and if she will make a statement. [145115]

Mr. McCartney: The British Council has been present in Russia for many years,, during which it has enjoyed the support of federal ministries, local authorities and officials for activities in the fields of education, language training, scientific co-operation, culture and the arts. Hundreds of thousands of people across Russia have been able to benefit from the activities of the British Council network.

More recently the British Council in Russia has experienced a number of legal., administrative and practical difficulties. The British Council has sought to comply with the demands of the authorities, for example in respect of taxation and other regulations, despite difficulties caused by the lack of clear legal status. Most recently a series of tax inspections in

Moscow and across the network was launched and the British Council are providing information requested by the inspectors.

We have pressed the Russians to resolve uncertainties about the legal status of the British Council in Russia by concluding a new Cultural Centres Agreement, taking the place of a 1994 Agreement on Co-operation in the Fields of Education, Science and Culture. The absence of an updated Agreement is causing difficulties for some regional British Council centres established in co-operation with local partners and authorities. A text was agreed at official level with Russia in 2001. In March 2006, Russia submitted a revised text. Productive negotiations with the Russian Foreign Ministry in January brought the text of a new Cultural Centres Agreement very close to conclusion. However, the Russian authorities have been reluctant to guarantee consent, under the terms of the Agreement, for the British Council to establish centres (which already exist as their current network of offices), outside Moscow. We await the Russian authorities' reply to our outstanding proposals for finalising the text, which we hope can lead to a quick and satisfactory outcome.

These issues are raised frequently with the Russian authorities at both Ministerial and official levels. Our Embassy in Moscow keeps EU colleagues informed of developments in the course of regular meetings in Moscow.

Salman Rushdie

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the government of Pakistan on the reported views of its Minister of Religious Affairs on Sir Salman Rushdie; and if she will make a statement. [145340]

Dr. Howells: Our high commissioner in Islamabad raised deep concerns about the reported comments made by Pakistan's Minister for Religious Affairs with the Government of Pakistan on 19 June. We would strongly condemn any statement of this nature. It is clear that nothing can justify suicide bomb attacks.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made to the Government of Pakistan on action by the Pakistani national assembly in response to the awarding of a knighthood to Salman Rushdie; and if she will make a statement. [145821]

Dr. Howells: Our high commissioner in Islamabad discussed the resolution passed by Pakistan's National Assembly, demanding that we withdraw Sir Salman Rushdie's knighthood, with the Government of Pakistan on 19 June. He stressed that Sir Salman's knighthood is a reflection of his contribution to literature throughout a long and distinguished career which has seen him receive international recognition for a substantial body of work, and stressed that the knighthood was not intended as an insult to Islam or the Prophet Muhammad.

Somalia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on Somalia, whether any progress has been made in *(a)* strengthening and *(b)* improving the implementation of the UN arms embargo against Somalia; and what proposals the UK has put forward in this respect. [143950]

Margaret Beckett: The Government strongly support the comprehensive UN arms embargo for Somalia. We sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1744, adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on 20 February, which reiterates the Council's demand that all states comply with the arms embargo. The resolution also stipulated certain conditions for exemptions to the embargo for the African Union's Mission to Somalia and for support to the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions. We continue to support the UN Monitoring Committee in its work to observe and report on compliance with the embargo. The UK will continue to consider, in consultation with its partners in the UN, what steps might be taken by the Security Council to ensure maximum compliance with the embargo.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the UK is providing to the deployment of the African Union Mission to Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [143776]

Margaret Beckett: The Government believe that a successful deployment of an African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) will make a vital contribution to ensuring lasting stability in Somalia. The UK has offered planning and logistical support for a Somalia planning cell within the AU's Peace and Security Operations Division in Addis Ababa. The UK has also offered planning, logistical and financial assistance direct to troop contributing countries, including up to £1.3 million to Uganda.

We also strongly supported the early disbursement of the EU's contribution of €15 million to AMISOM, which is currently being processed.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the expulsion from Colombo of 376 ethnic Tamils; and if she will make a statement. [145146]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1611W.

The evictions and the reports of human rights violations and civilian deaths in Sri Lanka are a reflection of the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. They can only serve to harden attitudes among the affected communities both in Sri Lanka and overseas.

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 249W, on Sudan: international assistance, what discussions have been held with the representatives of countries that have yet to fulfil their pledges of assistance to the African Union in Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [145823]

Mr. McCartney: We have lobbied the Arab League and several of its key members regularly over the last year on the need to honour fully the commitments previously made to provide funds to the African Union (AU) Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). We have also lobbied other potential donors in the EU, major contributors to the UN's peacekeeping budget and major trading partners of Sudan to contribute towards the costs of AMIS.

We have had extensive discussions with the European Commission over the use of previous and future funds from the Africa Peace Facility for AMIS. We have pressed the European Commission to help the AU to produce the financial reporting required to release additional Commission funds for AMIS.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the composition of the peacekeeping troops for the AU-UN force in Darfur; and whether they are to be exclusively or predominantly from African Union member states. [144480]

Mr. McCartney: Troops for the African Union (AU)-UN force in Darfur have not yet been generated. We are pressing both the AU and UN to ensure force generation happens as soon as possible. Troops will be drawn first from African countries and if there are not sufficient African troops available, the UN will source troops from non-African countries. The AU and UN have agreed that

'all efforts will be made to ensure that the peacekeeping force will have a predominantly African character'.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what date has been agreed with the Sudanese Government for the *(a)* initial and *(b)* full deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force. [145814]

Mr. McCartney: The Sudanese Government agreed to deployment of the African Union (AU)-UN hybrid force for Darfur on 12 June. The AU and UN have not yet set a date for deployment and we do not expect them to do so until the UN Security Council has passed a resolution mandating the force. We are pressing both the AU and UN to deploy the hybrid mission as soon as possible. At the enlarged international conference on Sudan in Paris today, attended by my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham,, the UN Secretary-General's team anticipated deployment of the heavy support package for the AU during the autumn, and that it would form the basis of the hybrid force shortly thereafter.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are in place for the funding of the AU-UN hybrid force recently accepted by the Sudanese Government. [145815]

Mr. McCartney: The hybrid force will be funded by the UN. The UN will also fully fund the light and heavy support packages for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Until the hybrid force deploys, AMIS funding will continue to come through voluntary contributions from donors.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what timescale is envisaged for the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force recently accepted by the Sudanese Government; and what agreements have been reached on *(a)* the composition of its troops and *(b)* the chain of command. [145816]

Mr. McCartney: The UN and African Union (AU) are still negotiating the timetable for the deployment of the joint AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur accepted by the Sudanese Government on 12 June. We are pressing both parties to agree on the earliest possible date. The heavy support package to be deployed this autumn will form the initial core of the hybrid force.

Troops will be drawn first from African countries and if there are not sufficient African troops available, the UN will source troops from non-African countries. The AU and UN have agreed that 'all efforts will be made to ensure that the peacekeeping force will have a predominantly African character'.

The new AU Mission in the Sudan Force Commander, Nigerian General Agwai, will take over as force commander of the hybrid mission when it deploys. He will report to the newly appointed Joint Special Representative, Rodolphe Adada, who reports to both the UN and AU.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the nature of the death of the former Sudanese Vice President. [145184]

Mr. McCartney: It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the death of Sudanese first Vice President Dr. John Garang in a helicopter crash on 30 July 2005. Dr. Garang was returning from an official visit to Uganda when the helicopter he was travelling in crashed south of New Kush in bad weather. Seven crew and six other passengers were also killed.

In April 2006 the joint Ugandan/Sudanese panel sent a final report into the cause of the crash to Sudanese President Bashir. This report said that pilot error had been to blame. The report was accepted both by the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent deaths at the Kajbar Dam in Sudan. [145185]

Mr. McCartney: During protests on 13 June against the building of a new dam in the Kajbar area of Northern State, the Sudanese police appear to have used excessive force against demonstrators, killing four people and leaving at least ten injured. Following the incident, the Deputy Governor of Northern State and the local Commissioner of Kajbar tendered their resignations.

We, and EU partners, expressed our concern about this incident to the Government of Sudan during the meeting of the EU-Sudan dialogue on Human Rights on 21 June. The Government said that they had sent a team to Kajbar to investigate the event. We urged them to conduct this investigation quickly and hold those responsible for these tragic events to account.

Four journalists attempting to cover the protests were also arrested and detained by security forces. We welcome their release on 19 June but continue to press the Government of Sudan, including through the EU-Sudan dialogue, to respect freedom of the media as enshrined in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her French counterpart on that Government's proposal for an international peace conference for Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [145813]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed Darfur with the French Foreign Minister, including the international conference on Darfur held in Paris today at which my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, represented the UK. The French Foreign Minister then wrote to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to explain the objective for the meeting was to strengthen the international focus and activity on Darfur and give the African Union/UN strong international support We welcome this initiative. My noble Friend Lord Triesman visited Paris on 18 June to discuss with the French Government how to revitalise the political process in Darfur and keep pressure on the Government of Sudan and rebels to honour their commitments.

Terrorism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterpart in Saudi Arabia on tackling the expansion of Islamic *(a)* extremism and *(b)* terrorist activity in the Gulf region. [145516]

Mr. McCartney: Saudi Arabia is one of the UK's key counter-terrorism partners. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met her Saudi opposite number, Prince Saud, in May, and we continue to enjoy a high level of bilateral co-operation, including on issues relating to counter-terrorism, at both ministerial and senior official level. Saudi Arabia plays a vital role, both regionally and internationally, in the global response to the terrorist threat, including countering extremism and the disruption of terrorist networks on its own territory.

Thailand: Terrorism

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of fundamentalist Islamist forces setting schools on fire in Southern Thailand. [144484]

Mr. McCartney: Since the outbreak of serious violence in January 2004 there have been regular attacks on teachers and schools in the three southern Thai border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. According to recent Thai Education Ministry statistics nearly 200 schools have been burnt down, 75 teachers, administrators and staff killed and 91 injured in this period. Schools in the three provinces are frequently closed for security reasons. The authorities have blamed a number of separatist and terrorist groups for the majority of the attacks.

Tibet: Press Freedom

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to press for journalists' free access to Tibet during the 2008 Olympic Games. [145047]

Mr. McCartney: At the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February, the Chinese Government confirmed that the new regulations for foreign correspondents, implemented on 1 January, applied to Tibet. However, as with all visitors to Tibet, journalists must still seek permission to enter the region from the local authorities. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister encouraged greater media freedom with the head of the Chinese Information Office for the State Council in April. We continue to urge China to lift its restrictions on freedom of expression both before and after the Olympics and to protect the rights of its domestic media.

Tibet: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on the implications for the Tibetan people of the opening of the railway to Lhasa. [145033]

Mr. McCartney: The Chinese Government maintain the Qinghai-Lhasa railway is helping to boost the local economy, particularly through its contribution to a growth in tourism in Tibet. We welcome Tibet's economic development, but are concerned that it should take account of the wishes of the local Tibetan population and that they should benefit from it. We regularly raise Tibet-related concerns with the Chinese Government and did so most recently at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contingency plans she has to evacuate British nationals from Uganda should the situation in the country deteriorate *(a)* before and *(b)* during the Commonwealth meeting; and if she will make a statement. [145168]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Missions overseas where appropriate routinely prepare civil contingency plans if there is a risk in their host countries (e.g. from civil disorder or a natural disaster) that could lead to an evacuation of British nationals. In compiling civil contingency plans, the FCO's objective is to protect British nationals in a situation that poses a serious threat to their safety, and in a worst case scenario, to assist their departure to a place of safety.

Like many other British diplomatic posts, our high commission in Kampala holds a civil contingency plan, which is reviewed and tested annually.

The FCO Travel Advice provides information on the risks faced by British nationals when travelling overseas, and is updated on a regular basis. British nationals intending to travel to Uganda should regularly check the Travel Advice up to their date of departure. An easy way to do this is to subscribe at www.fco.gov.uk/travel to receive free Travel Advice updates through email alerts.

Uganda: Elections

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the likelihood of *(a)* free and fair elections in Uganda in 2011 and *(b)* implementation of the recommendations of the European Union and Commonwealth Election Observers in that country; and if she will make a statement; [145173]

(2) what discussions she has had with Commonwealth representatives on the implementation of their election observer recommendations for the Ugandan authorities; and if she will make a statement. [145176]

Mr. McCartney: We have a regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy and engaging with the opposition, building towards the next elections in 2011. We will press for the elections to be free and fair, and build on the recommendations made by the international observer groups following the 2006 elections.

We also continue to have high level contacts with the Commonwealth Secretariat and EU partners on a range of issues in Uganda, including political governance and deepening democracy.

I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to the my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1316W, and 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 251W.

UN Human Rights Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on proposals to abolish the UN Human Rights Council envoy posts charged with reporting on *(a)* Belarus, *(b)* Cuba, *(c)* North Korea, *(d)* Burma, *(e)* Somalia, *(f)* Sudan and *(g)* Uzbekistan. [145817]

Mr. McCartney: When the UN Human Rights Council was established in March 2006, it was tasked with reviewing its tools and mechanisms, including its so-called Special Procedures (for example Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts dedicated to specific country situations). On 18 June, the Council agreed a package of measures at the conclusion of this review. Throughout the review the UK consistently took a strong position, nationally and with the rest of the EU, in favour of maintaining all the existing country-specific and thematic Special Procedures. There was a great deal of opposition at the Council to the continuation of country-specific Special Procedures. I was profoundly disappointed that, because of this opposition, the mandates of the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights situations in Cuba and Belarus were not renewed. The situations in both those countries continue to be of deep concern and we will continue to monitor the situation in each closely. I was, however, pleased that the mandates of all the other country-specific Special Procedures (including the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Burma and Sudan, and the Independent Expert appointed by the UN Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia) were renewed.

The Council inherited an Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan, created through the confidential complaints procedure under the old UN Commission on Human Rights. At its fourth session (12-30 March) the UN Human Rights Council discontinued consideration of the specific file relating to Uzbekistan under its confidential complaints procedure. The confidential nature of that procedure prevents us from commenting on any details of the cases and on the position taken by the UK. We do, however, emphasise strongly our deep concern over persistent violations of human rights in Uzbekistan.

The Council also agreed on 18 June a new system of universal periodic review, which will look at every state's individual work on human rights implementation, including Cuba's and Uzbekistan's.

USA: Ministerial Visits

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Members of the Government expect to make an official visit to *(a)* Florida and *(b)* the USA before the end of August. [144395]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, Kim Howells, are both visiting Washington between 24 and 25 June. There are no other confirmed visits to the United States scheduled before the end of August by Members of the Government.

Visas: Administration

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many refusal stamps erroneously issued by UKvisas were removed in each of the last five years. [144316]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member is not recorded by UKvisas.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many administrative errors involving the erroneous issuing of visas by UKvisas were detected in each of the last five years. [144317]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member is not recorded by UKvisas.

Western Sahara

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Moroccan counterparts and *(b)* counterparts at the United Nations on the disputed area of Western Sahara; and if she will make a statement. [145566]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the Western Sahara with her Moroccan or UN counterparts, but my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells), has discussed the issue with Moroccan ministers twice this year, in February and April, and UK officials in New York are in regular contact with the UN and representatives of the parties to the dispute.

The UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara.

On 30 April the UN Security Council, chaired by the UK, adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1754, which took note of Morocco's proposal presented to the UN Secretary-General on 11 April, and called for both sides to enter into negotiations without preconditions.

The UK welcomes the first round of these talks between Morocco, the Polisario, and their neighbours, hosted by the UN on 18-19 June and the agreement by all parties to take part in a further round in August.

Whales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Japanese and *(b)* Icelandic counterparts on reducing and stopping the hunting of whales in international waters. [145517]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with her Japanese or Icelandic counterparts on whaling. However, our Ambassadors raise the subject frequently with their host governments. Most recently our Ambassador in Tokyo discussed the issue with the Japanese Foreign Ministry in December 2006 and our Ambassador in Reykjavik raised the issue with the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs on 6 June, the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture on 12 June and with the Icelandic Minister of the Environment on 13 June.

Yemen: Terrorism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to assist the Yemeni government in fighting terrorism. [145518]

Mr. McCartney: We maintain a wide-ranging dialogue with the Government of Yemen including on issues relating to counter terrorism (CT). We are supporting the Yemeni government in developing its CT capability, for example the provision of training for the nascent national coastguard. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, (Dr. Howells), has made two visits to Yemen, in January 2006 and 2007; on both occasions, he expressed the hope that our bilateral CT exchanges would continue to develop.

Younis Masih

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Pakistani Government on the death sentence for blasphemy imposed on Younis Masih. [145868]

Dr. Howells: We have not recently made any representations to the Pakistani authorities concerning Younis Masih. However, we are aware of this case and continue to follow developments closely. We regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan, both bilaterally and with our EU partners. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle.

Yu Lam Chan

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps she plans to take on the case of joint UK/Chinese citizen Mr. Yu Lam Chan, imprisoned in China. [139862]

Mr. McCartney: The Chinese authorities continue to deny UK officials consular access to Mr. Yu Lam Chan as they consider him to be a Chinese national in China. The Director for Consular Services in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised this case with his Chinese counterpart on 5 June and we will continue to raise our concerns over Mr. Yu Lam Chan's health and welfare with the Chinese authorities at every appropriate opportunity.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her most recent assessment is of the medical condition of UK citizen Mr. Yu Lam Chan, imprisoned in China. [139864]

Mr. McCartney: Consular officials do not have first hand knowledge of Mr. Yu Lam Chan's medical conditions, as they are not permitted access to him. However, officials do maintain contact with family members and we have made clear our concerns to the Chinese authorities regarding Mr. Yu Lam Chan's health and welfare. The Chinese authorities assure us that he is receiving appropriate treatment for his illnesses.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Mr. Yu Lam Chan has at any time been employed by the British Government in any capacity. [139866]

Mr. McCartney: Mr. Yu Lam Chan is currently serving a prison sentence in China on charges of espionage. It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence allegations.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact she has had with the UN High Commission for Refugees on the case of Mr. Yu Lam Chan, a British citizen imprisoned in China. [139867]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have had no contact with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on this case.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on meetings held in South Africa between Zanu-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change. [145121]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the progress of the Southern African Development Community initiative with President Mbeki during his recent visit to South Africa. We have welcomed Mbeki's commitment to encourage internal dialogue between the parties in Zimbabwe. It is important that the dialogue addresses ongoing problems of governance, the need for a wider democratic space and respect for human rights, as well as preparing the ground for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe in March 2008. We will continue to keep in close touch with the South Africans and others in the region as the talks between ZANU-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change continue.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Uganda on President Museveni's *(a)* support for President Mugabe's land policies and *(b)* statement that Britain was responsible for the economic and social problems in Zimbabwe; and if she will make a statement. [145178]

Mr. McCartney: We have not made specific representations to the Government of Uganda on these issues. However our high commissioner in Kampala lobbied the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in March to seek support for an EU Statement at the UN Human Rights Council condemning recent human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. Following this and other exchanges, the Government of Uganda will be aware of our wider policy on Zimbabwe.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Closures

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's practice is on consulting other Government Departments before deciding on the closure of *(a)* accident and emergency departments and *(b)* maternity units; and which other Departments are consulted in each case. [144980]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for major changes are a matter for the national health service locally in conjunction with local stakeholders. Changes to local health services are subject to full public consultation.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent waiting time levels were in accident and emergency departments in all Sussex hospitals. [145833]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect accident and emergency (A&E) waiting time data at individual hospital level. Information is available at trust level. The following table provides the percentage of patients spending under four hours between arrival in A&E and admission, transfer or discharge for the latest period for which data have been published.

Percentage of patients spending under four hours between arrival in A&E and admission, transfer or discharge, quarter 4 (January to March) 2007

Organisation	*Percentage of patients*
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	98.2
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	97.6
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	94.3
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	97.6

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Agency Nurses

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the expenditure by the NHS on temporary nursing in each of the last seven years; and what proportion of expenditure on nurses this represents. [145469]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff costs

£

	NHS paybill	*Non-NHS paybill*[1]	*Proportion of total (percentage)*
1999-2000	7,330,271,609	361,656,683	4.7
2000-01	7,902,410,872	435,431,882	5.2
2001-02	8,825,373,201	554,323,821	5.9
2002-03	9,642,764,077	589,739,230	5.8
2003-04	10,371,446,299	524,675,129	4.8
2004-05	10,812,763,000	399,995,000	3.6
2005-06	11,200,735,000	321,313,500	2.8

[1] Agency.
Note:
Financial returns data do not include spend by foundation trusts.
Source:
Trust financial returns (TFR), primary care trust financial returns (PFR) and strategic health authority/health authority financial returns (HFR).

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect on patient safety of temporary nursing in the NHS. [145470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of national health service trusts to assess the effect on patient safety of temporary nursing in the NHS. Staff provided by NHS Professionals, are subject to the same stringent checks as any other substantive employee and as set out in the NHS Employers' document "Safer Recruitment—A Guide for NHS Employers". In addition, nursing agencies, on the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency Framework Agreements, are audited on an annual basis.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to help NHS trusts *(a)* plan and *(b)* manage their demand for temporary nursing staff. [145471]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of national health service trusts to plan and manage their demand for temporary nursing staff in the context of local business and workforce planning. NHS Professionals can play a significant role in assisting trusts manage their demand whilst maintaining quality and achieving value for money.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the Ambulance Trust performance data for 2006-07. [145639]

Andy Burnham: The information requested was published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 21 June 2007 and can be accessed at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance.

The Information Centre for health and social care will produce printed copies of "Ambulance Services, England 2006-2007" shortly and copies will be placed in the Library once they are available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether emergency medical technicians are able to deliver the same level of care as paramedics in the case of callouts to patients with epilepsy and cerebral palsy. [145666]

Andy Burnham: The treatment administered to a patient with cerebral palsy would depend on the primary illness, symptoms or injury that they presented with rather than necessarily the underlying condition. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 559W, in which I provided information on the types of care that can be provided by an ambulance paramedic and an emergency medical technician (EMTs). In relation specifically to the treatment of patients with epilepsy, paramedics can supply and administer rectal diazepam, whilst EMTs can only administer the drug if it was already in the possession of the patient.

Ambulance Services: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS ambulance trusts issue their paramedics with stab proof vest protection; what discussion she has held on stab proof vest protection for paramedics; what assessment she has made of the merits of providing stab proof vest protection for paramedics; and if she will make a statement. [145430]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the management of security related matters in the national health service, including tackling violence against NHS staff.

However, information on the NHS ambulance trusts which issue their paramedics with stab proof vest protection is not held centrally. Each trust will make their own decision based on local risk assessments.

The Safer Hospitals Project has looked at the use of stab proof vests in the ambulance service. The results will be made available in due course.

Ambulance Services: Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many 999 calls for Sussex ambulances have been received in each of the last five years; [145826]

(2) how many category A incidents have been attended by Sussex ambulances in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority district. [145827]

Andy Burnham: Information on number of emergency calls and number of category A incidents is provided in the following table.

Emergency calls and emergency incidents (calls resulting in response arriving at the scene of the incident) by specified ambulance service[1], 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 Q1	2006 Q2-4	2006 Q1-4
Emergency calls							
South East Coast Ambulance Trust	403,267	436,142	460,323	493,022	116,882	377,484	494,366
Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	144,764	158,121	166,732	182,320	39,343	n/a	n/a
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	99,145	105,007	112,886	121,794	30,794	n/a	n/a
Sussex Ambulance NHS Trust	159,358	173,014	180,705	188,908	46,745	n/a	n/a

Emergency calls and emergency incidents (calls resulting in response arriving at the scene of the incident) by specified ambulance service[1], 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 Q1	2006 Q2-4	2006 Q1-4
Category A incidents							
South East Coast Ambulance Trust	89,243	96,149	95,736	117,438	31,221	111,155	142,376
Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	39,258	42,257	39,932	44,185	11,414	n/a	n/a
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	25,384	24,922	26,226	33,348	8,445	n/a	n/a
Sussex Ambulance NHS Trust	24,601	28,970	29,578	39,905	11,362	n/a	n/a

n/a = not applicable.

[1] On 1 July 2006, Sussex ambulance service merged with Surrey ambulance service and Kent ambulance service to become South East Coast Ambulance Service Trust. Data is only available for ambulance trusts, it is not available for the location of the incident.

Source:
Form KA34
Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Benzodiazepines

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of *(a)* benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* antidepressants were dispensed in the community in England in 2006. [145414]

Caroline Flint: In 2006, 10.769 million prescription items were dispensed for benzodiazepines in the community in England. Benzodiazepines are defined in section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 of the British National Formulary (BNF). Benzodiazepines defined in section 4.8.1 of the BNF for the treatment of epilepsy are not included.

In the same period, 31.038 million prescription items were dispensed for antidepressants in the community in England, as defined in section 4.3 of the BNF.

Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 988W, on blood: contamination, what correspondence her Department has had with *(a)* the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation and *(b)* clinicians on the inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement. [145480]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not had any formal correspondence with the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation or with clinicians about the Lord Archer inquiry.

Blood: Imports

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 279-80W, on blood: imports, (1) how much was spent on commercially imported AHG concentrate/factor VIII blood products by health authorities under arrangements centrally negotiated by her Department in each year from 1977 to 1990; and if she will make a statement; [145528]

(2) what records her Department holds on centrally negotiated arrangements for the purchase of commercially imported AHG concentrate/factor VIII blood products for health authorities in the 1970s and 1980s; and if she will make a statement; [145529]

(3) how many blood donations were used to prepare AHG concentrate/factor VIII blood products in the UK in each year from 1977 to 1985; and if she will make a statement. [145540]

Caroline Flint: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Blood: Safety

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on blood: safety, on what date her Department plans to release the next batch of documents identified in the Review of Documentation relating to the safety of Blood Products 1970 to 1985; and if she will make a statement. [145479]

Caroline Flint: The first batch of papers were sent to the inquiry team on 15 June. Arrangements are in hand to place these papers on the Department's website. As indicated previously we will be sending papers to the inquiry team at monthly intervals.

Broadband: Health Hazards

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the health of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children of radio waves from home wireless broadband systems; and if she will make a statement. [145008]

Caroline Flint: The independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) undertook a comprehensive assessment of radio waves and health in 2003. Its report, entitled "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields", was published by the then National Radiological Protection Board (now the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA)). Copies are available in the Library and on the HPA website:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/absd14-2.htm

All devices that emit radio waves (such as wireless internet) should be used in compliance with the exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as specified in the European Recommendation on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields (EC/519/1999).

Information about wireless devices and health is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/Features/FeaturesArchive/Browsable/DH_5369553

The Government acknowledges further advice provided by the HPA at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wifi.htm

This states:

"There is no consistent evidence to date that WiFi and wireless local area networks adversely affect the health of the general population. The signals are very low power, typically 0.1 watt (100 milliwatts) in both the computer and the router (access point) and the results so far show exposures are well within internationally accepted (ICNIRP) guidelines. Based on current knowledge and experience, radio frequency (RF) exposures from WiFi are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones. Also, the frequencies used in WiFi are broadly the same as those from traditional RF applications."

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of *(a)* existing NHS deficits on the take up of treatment approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for use in lymphatic cancer and *(b)* (i) payment by results and (ii) practice based commissioning on the availability of these treatments. [143304]

Andy Burnham: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local national health service trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services.

PCTs are under a legal requirement to fund the provision of treatments within three months of a positive National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal being finalised. PCTs should use their best endeavours to ensure that any new treatments recommended by NICE are available as soon as possible after publication of final guidance. If it is possible for PCTs to make the necessary arrangements without using the full three month period then they should do so.

Where treatments and services fall under payment by results, this activity is paid for at the national tariff price. Funding for services outside the scope of payment by results is agreed locally between commissioners and providers. Under payment by results any cost implications of NICE guidance for the NHS are taken account of in two main ways:

Through an adjustment within the national tariff uplift (dealing with pay and prices, pay reform and technical issues); and

Through adjustments to specific national tariff prices where appropriate.

Practice based commissioning (PBC) gives practices and primary care professionals the freedom to develop innovative, high-quality services for their patients. It enables them, working across boundaries with secondary care clinicians and others, to redesign services that better meet the needs of their patients. By giving practices the ability to develop new services for patients within a framework of accountability and support, PBC will improve access, extend patient choice and help restore financial balance.

Care Homes: Elderly

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory obligations cover the care provided to residents in care homes for the elderly; how her Department enforces these obligations; and what statutory requirements are placed upon primary care trusts with regard to care homes for the elderly. [142897]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The detailed regulation of the provision of care for older people in residential care homes is governed by the Care Standards Act 2000 and regulations made under it. The relevant statutory instruments which govern the regulation and inspection of care homes, as defined in that Act, are the National Care Standards Commission (Registration) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3969) and the Care Homes Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001/3965). Primary care trusts may make arrangements for the placing of people in residential care homes which are regulated in this way but do not have specific statutory obligations themselves in relation to the regulation of such homes.

In England, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), which is set up under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, regulates residential care homes through its powers of registration and inspection. Enforcement of the regulatory conditions is through criminal sanctions and mandatory inspection of homes by CSCI. In exercising its powers of inspection, CSCI must take into account the relevant national minimum standards issued under the 2000 Act, which apply across the country and are intended to ensure consistency in the quality of services. It is an offence for anyone who carries on or manages a care home, as defined in the 2000 Act, not to be registered.

Childbirth: Horton Hospital

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women gave birth at *(a)* Horton General Hospital and *(b)* Warwick General Hospital in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2003-04; and how many expectant mothers received midwife assistance at home at each hospital in each year. [144085]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many expectant mothers gave birth at (a) Horton General Hospital and (b) Warwick General Hospital in

(i) 2005-06, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2003-04; and how many expectant mothers received midwife assistance at home in each hospital in each year. (144085)

Figures on maternities in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available maternity figures from this source are for 2005. The table below shows the figures requested for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05. Since most births at Horton take place in Horton Maternity Hospital, figures for this unit have been included as well as those for Horton General Hospital.

Maternities in Horton General Hospital, Horton Maternity Hospital and Warwick Hospital in 2003-04 and 2004-05

	Number of maternities	
	Financial years	
	2003-04	*2004-05*
Horton General Hospital	13	9
Horton Maternity Hospital	1,501	1,528
Warwick Hospital	2,534	2,713

No information is held centrally on midwife assistance at home for these hospitals.

Children: Abuse

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued by her Department on the covert monitoring of parents while on hospital premises for the detection and prevention of child abuse. [145889]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The full guidance issued by the Department, "Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced", contains relevant guidance on covert monitoring of parents on hospital premises. Copies have been placed in the Library and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008714

Clacton Hospital

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 912W, on Clacton hospital, for what reasons decisions on Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton hospital are being made by West Essex Primary Care Trust. [144324]

Andy Burnham: As stated in my answer of 17 May any decision regarding the closure of the Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton hospital is a matter for the local national health service, which has the responsibility for the configuration and delivery of local services, working in partnership with the communities it serves. NHS East of England has advised that a consultation on the proposed changes to mental health services in North Essex was launched on 7 June. The consultation, which will conclude on 7 September, includes proposals on the future of the Peter Bruff Ward at Clacton. I would urge the hon. Member to engage as fully as possible during the consultation to ensure that his views and those of his constituents are taken into consideration.

Community Health Services: West Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee referral of West Suffolk's community health proposals. [144300]

Andy Burnham: The Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee referral of West Suffolk's community health proposals is currently under consideration by the Secretary of State, and a response will follow in due course.

Dental Services: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis the allocations of funding for children's orthodontic services for Hartlepool for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were made; if she will take action to improve children's orthodontic services in Hartlepool; and if she will make a statement. [145044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The resource allocations for primary dental care services awarded to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2006-07 were based on expenditure on general dental services and personal dental services pilots in each PCT area during the reference period October 2004 to September 2005. This captured payments for both general dental services and specialist services such as orthodontic services. The allocations also included adjustments to reflect nationally agreed increases in dentists' remuneration, provision for growth plans previously submitted to and approved by the Department, and some margin to accommodate any new services that may have started during or after the reference period but could not be fully reflected in the calculation of reference period earnings.

The resource allocations for 2007-08 included additional funding to allow for factors such as 2007-08 increases in dentists' remuneration and adjustments in the expected levels of patient charge income. Hartlepool PCT received a 7.1 per cent. increase in its 2007-08 dental funding allocation, net of income from patient charges.

PCTs are responsible for developing dental services in their area to reflect local needs and priorities. Subject to honouring existing contracts, PCTs are free to vary the balance of resources committed to general dental services and to specialist services such as orthodontics. PCTs may also make additional investment in services from within their total national health service resources, if they consider this an appropriate local priority. The Department has provided a range of guidance and support to PCTs to support effective commissioning of orthodontic services and help promote access to high-quality services.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights were. [144807]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All

travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and "Travel by Ministers".

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138462]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect information in the format requested.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to track consultant spend for the Department.

Departments: Contracts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data her Department collects on contracts awarded to external suppliers by public bodies it sponsors. [144394]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not regularly collect data on contracts awarded to external suppliers by sponsored public bodies. Performance targets for executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Department, including outputs to be achieved, are agreed by Ministers and set out in the published business or corporate plan of the NDPB. Copies of plans are available from the relevant body. The Department monitors performance against these targets and progress is discussed with Ministers. The outputs and achievements of each executive NDPB are set out in its annual report, a copy of which is available in the Library.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 284W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, (1) what the conclusions were of the review of the overall NHS reform programme; [144517]

(2) what the findings were of the review of the overall NHS reform programme. [144961]

Andy Burnham: The findings and conclusions of NHS reform programme reports of the joint review by the Department of Health and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit comprise confidential policy advice to the Prime Minister and Ministers, and are not published.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 284W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, what the *(a)* start date and *(b)* end date was of each review; and on which date a final report was produced for each. [144518]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the table.

Name of review	*Start date*	*End date*
18 Weeks	13 June 2006	13 September 2006
Choice of four providers	22 September 2006	2 November 2006
Practice-based commissioning	27 November 2006	26 February 2007
Overall NHS reform programme	19 February 2007	22 March 2007
Childhood obesity	February 2006	3 November 2006
Child and adolescent mental health services	September 2006	3 November 2006
Primary care trust capability	5 March 2007	16 May 2007

The date of final reports produced are the same as the end dates.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 284W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, if she will place in the Library copies of the terms of reference for the reviews of *(a)* 18 weeks, *(b)* the overall NHS reform programme, *(c)* childhood obesity and *(d)* primary care trust capability. [144519]

Andy Burnham: The reports of joint reviews by the Department and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit comprise confidential policy advice to the Prime Minister and Ministers, and are not published.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144806]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is as follows.

	Number
2005	27,000
2006	28,000

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Memorandums of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in her Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144476]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has entered into numerous Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with a large number of countries over the years. The purpose and content of these agreements varies considerably, as does the amount of activity taking place under them. For this reason, we are currently evaluating the impact and effectiveness of our memorandums. This will inform a more strategic approach in line with the Global Health Strategy, which the Government are currently developing.

The following table details our principal bilateral agreements. However, we also have several separate reciprocal health care agreements with other countries on access to treatment abroad. This information is available on www.dh.gov.uk/travellers

Department of Health principal bilateral agreements

Country	*Type of agreement*	*Date of expiry*	*Area covered*
Belgium	Framework	Both countries to review annually	Co-operation on health care
Brazil	MOU	2011	Collaboration and exchange of expertise
Bulgaria	Plan of Co-operation	2009	Co-operation on health care
China	MOU	2010	Co-operation on health care
China	Letter of Intent	2007	Co-operation on ethical recruitment
Egypt	MOU	Ongoing	Co-operation on health care
France	Joint Statement of Intent	Ongoing	Co-operation on health care
Hong Kong	MOU	2009	Co-operation on mutual interests
Libya	Letter of Intent	2008	Co-operation on primary care and management issues
Mexico	MOU	2007	Co-operation on health care
Shanghai	MOU	2007	Co-operation on hospital development
South Africa	MOU	2008	Exchange of educational concepts and personnel
USA	Joint Statement	Ongoing	Quality of care
USA	Joint Statement	Ongoing	Health consequences of terrorism

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in her Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement on her Department's policy on home working. [143882]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Departments human resource information system currently records four staff as members of its home-working scheme. The Department also allows staff to work at home on an occasional basis at management discretion. No data are kept on these ad hoc arrangements that enable staff to enjoy a more flexible, family-friendly working arrangement.

Our policy is in line with approaches commonly adopted across the civil service and reflects good practice followed by organisations more widely.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in her Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143897]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Entrants by gender

	2006-07		*2005-06*		*2004-05*	
Category	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
Full-time permanent	46	45	120	87	28	21
Full-time temporary	20	10	29	26	50	26
Part-time permanent	—	1	9	—	9	2
Part-time temporary	1	—	2	1	2	2
Total	67	56	160	114	89	51

Number of entrants voluntary declaring a disability

Category	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Full-time permanent	1	11	2
Full-time temporary	0	0	4
Part-time permanent	0	0	0
Part-time temporary	0	0	0
Total	1	11	6

Entrants aged 55 or over

Category	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Full-time permanent	1	12	1
Full-time temporary	0	2	1
Part-time permanent	0	0	3
Part-time temporary	0	0	0
Total	1	14	5

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staff in her Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and (d) aged 55 or over. [143914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at the end of March 2007, the Department's records show that 46.6 per cent. of staff are male, 53.4 per cent. of staff are female, 5.8 per cent. have made a declaration as registered disabled and 11.5 per cent. are aged 55 and over.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144616]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following tables outline advertising campaigns undertaken by the Department, the cost of each and the external advertising agencies involved, in the last five years.

Campaign	2002-03 Advertising spend (£ million)	2002-03 Agency	2003-04 Advertising spend (£ million)	2003-04 Agency	2004-05 Advertising spend (£ million)	2004-05 Agency
Antibiotics	0.44	n/a	0.42	n/a	—	—
Drugs (joint with HO)	1.52	Mother	1.50	Mother	1.99	Mother
Flu	2.00	Euro RSCG	1.60	Euro RSCG	1.50	Euro RSCG
Hepatitis C	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immunisation	1.00	DDB	2.00	DDB	2.00	DDB
National health service including nurse recruitment	4.23	Leo Burnett	4.90	Leo Burnett	5.84	Leo Burnett
NHS Direct	0.58	Euro RSG	0.75	Euro RSG	—	—
Organ donation	0.22	n/a	—	—	—	—
Prescription fraud	0.30	n/a	—	—	—	—
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	160	DLKW	2.00	DKLW	—	—
Sexual health	1.50	DLKW	1.50	DLKW	1.27	DLKW
Social care/worker recruitment	1.24	Leo Burnett	4.62	Leo Burnett	2.14	Leo Burnett
Smoking	7.87	AMV	17.34	AMV	24.00	AWV
Walk-in centres	—	—	—	—	0.20	Euro RSCG
Writer (Get the right treatment)	0.25	Euro RSCG	1.75	Euro RSCG	0.59	Euro RSCG
Promoting new NHS services (Caring in many ways)	—	—	—	—	0.85	Euro RSCG
E111	—	—	—	—	0.32	CST

Campaign	2005-06 Advertising spend (£ million)	2005-06 Agency	2006-07 Advertising spend (£ million)	2006-07 Agency
Antibiotics	0.39	n/a	—	—
Drugs (joint with HO)	1.26	Mother	—	Mother
Flu	1.85	Euro RSCG	1.10	Euro RSCG
Hepatitis C	—	—	0.52	CST
Immunisation	0.35	DDB	1.60	DDB
National health service including nurse recruitment	0.02	Leo Burnett	—	—
NHS Direct	—	—	—	—
Organ donation	—	—	—	—
Prescription fraud	—	—	—	—
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	—	—	—	—
Sexual health			2.66	DLKW
Social care/worker recruitment	2.44	Leo Burnett	2.29	LOWE
Smoking	22.70	AMV	12.47	MCBD/Farm
Walk-in centres	—	Euro RSCG	—	—
Writer (Get the right treatment)	0.59	Euro RSCG	—	—
Promoting new NHS services (Caring in many ways)	—	—	—	—
E111	1.37	CST	—	—

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [143086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 420 staff in the Department received bonus payments in 2006-07. They represented 19 per cent. of the total workforce. The total amount of bonuses paid was £1,400,049. The largest single payment was £22,500.

A significant proportion of bonuses paid were to staff who are senior civil servants, where the Department's policy is determined by the Cabinet Office guidance on civil service bonuses.

Departments: Political Parties

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* executives, *(b)* non-executives and *(c)* officials in her Department's arm's length bodies have declared political affiliations to (i) the Labour Party, (ii) the Conservative Party, (iii) the Liberal Democrat Party and (iv) other political parties; and whether declaration of political affiliation forms part of the application process for such posts. [145667]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold information centrally on the political affiliations of its arm's length body executives, non-executives and officials and it would be disproportionately expensive to gather this information.

The application process for a post within the Department's arm's length bodies does not require applicants to make a declaration about their political affiliations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* executives, *(b)* non-executives and *(c)* officials in her Department's arm's length bodies have previously worked for (i) the Labour Party, (ii) the Conservative Party, (iii) the Liberal Democrat Party, (iv) other political parties and (v) trades unions. [145668]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold such information centrally and it would be disproportionately expensive to gather the information.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by her Department over the lifetime of the contract, expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value. [145869]

Andy Burnham: A full list of unitary payments to 2033-34 can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The figures in the table are expressed in nominal terms, that is, the Department has applied a deflator (retail price index (RPI)—the one normally used in contracts) to the baseline figure submitted to it by the trust or primary care trust concerned. Figures will therefore vary as a result of changes to RPI.

Unitary payments may also fluctuate both up and down as a result of adjustments made relating to the performance of the contractor, additional services requested by the trust and the effect of refinancing.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public consultations her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145277]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over the 12 months to the end of May 2007, the Department launched 43 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency launched 16 public consultations in the same period.

The NHS Purchasing Supply Agency did not launch any public consultations in the same period.

Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's overall expenditure was on public consultations in 2006-07. [145582]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold information centrally about costs of public consultations. Information on the Department's overall expenditure on public consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143793]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's finance system, Vista, shows one purchase order has been raised for Remploy in the last 12 months. The products procured were a quadrant corner unit and filing cabinet at a total cost of £3,400.31. No services were procured from Remploy.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average number of days per year was taken by staff in her Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143060]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is available in a series of annual reports entitled "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", published by the Cabinet Office and is available on their website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

The latest available information is for 2005-06. The report for 2006-07 will be published in September 2007.

Dietary Supplements: EC law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps officials based in British embassies to other European Union member states are taking to ensure that the Government's objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive are met; [145630]

(2) what steps the staff of the UK permanent representative in Brussels are taking to ensure that the Government's stated objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive are met; [145631]

(3) what recent representations she has received from consumers on the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive; and what steps she plans to take to ensure her objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the Directive are met; [145644]

(4) what meetings have been held by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of her Department and associated agencies with (i) representatives of the European Commission, (ii) Governments of other member states and (iii) officials of other member states on the Food Supplements Directive (vitamins and minerals); what the date was of each meeting; what points were raised at each; and what conclusions reached; [145645]

(5) when she last met Commissioner Markos Kyprianou to discuss the impact on consumer choice and the specialist manufacturing and retail sector of

the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in supplements under article 5 of that Directive; what the outcome was of that meeting; and when next she plans to meet the Commissioner further to discuss these issues. [145646]

Caroline Flint: Bilateral meetings of Health Ministers were held with Germany, Lithuania and Portugal in November 2006. Bilateral meetings of officials were held with Netherlands, Ireland, Finland, Germany, France and Italy in 2006. Additional meetings were held with the Netherlands in November 2006 and with German officials in March 2007. Officials have regular contact with the Commission and most recently met with Commission officials in November 2006.

The meetings were held to highlight the United Kingdom's (UK) position on supplements and discuss the outcome of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board discussions on setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals. Member states were receptive to the ideas presented by the FSA but had not developed their own definitive positions in the absence of proposals from the Commission. The Commission welcomed the UK Government's response to the discussion document published in June 2006 on issues for setting levels of vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs and commented that previous work taken forward by the UK in 2003 on establishing safe upper levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements will be a key factor in developing future proposals. Ministers of other member states have not been engaged on the issue of setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements to date, but were receptive to the UK's views and wished to learn more about the UK's position.

A meeting has not been held with Commissioner Markos Kyprianou to discuss the impact on consumer choice and the specialist manufacturing and retail sector of the implementation of the food supplements directive and the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in supplements under article 5 of that Directive. A future meeting has not been planned.

Representations have been received from consumers on the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive, highlighting their concerns regarding the possibility that the Commission intends to propose restrictive daily dose levels for vitamin and mineral supplements and the potential consequent loss of consumer choice. The UK's key objective is for levels to be set based on a risk assessment, and for any controls to ensure safety for consumers and allow them to make informed choices. FSA officials will continue dialogue between the Commission and member states on this issue.

Officials based in British embassies to other European Union member states have not indicated that they are taking action regarding promotion of the Government's objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive.

Staff of the UK permanent representative in Brussels have been briefed on the Government's stated objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive and are speaking to the Commission directly.

Drugs: Misuse

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people with an addiction to an illegal drug in each London borough in each year since 1997. [144642]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not published estimates on the number of people with an addiction to an illegal drug in London.

The National Treatment Agency's national drug treatment monitoring system collects data on the numbers of clients in treatment for addiction to all illegal drugs. London data from 2003-04 are shown in the following table. Local level data are not available prior to 2003-04.

Number in treatment in London 2003-06

DAT	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	475	571	705
Barnet	347	562	765
Bexley	304	345	364
Brent	730	844	995
Bromley	495	657	715
Camden	2,281	1,834	1,945
City of London	26	20	35
Croydon	849	954	1,098
Ealing	539	1,203	1,599
Enfield	454	608	650
Greenwich	769	782	875
Hackney	821	1,180	1,076
Hammersmith and Fulham	915	1,079	1,508
Haringey	807	1,022	1,182
Harrow	448	757	823
Havering	359	482	461
Hillingdon	324	504	600
Hounslow	492	857	1,201
Islington	1,313	1,495	1,540
Kensington and Chelsea	903	1,150	1,205
Kingston upon Thames	234	424	446
Lambeth	1,362	1,527	1,997
Lewisham	970	1,063	1,261
Merton	231	728	762
Newham	687	859	1,051
Redbridge	597	651	806
Richmond upon Thames	413	647	779
Southwark	1,143	1,503	1,876
Sutton	394	564	726
Tower Hamlets	636	1,204	1,489
Waltham Forest	301	626	896
Wandsworth	726	945	1,169
Westminster	1,190	1,392	1,613
Total	22,535	29,039	34,213

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice the Government have sought from the Health Protection Agency in relation to the Stakeholder

Advisory Group on extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) report; and how the Government's decision-making process on precautionary measures to prevent public exposure to EMFs will take account of this report; [144690]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the recent report from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields; [144721]

(3) what account she takes of public opinion in determining suitable precautionary measures on power frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMFs); and what mechanism she plans to put in place to assess public opinion on the issues raised by the recently published Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields report on precautionary approaches to power frequency EMFs; and if she will make a statement. [144689]

Caroline Flint: The recently published report from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency (ELF) electric and magnetic fields (EMF), known as the SAGE report, is currently under consideration by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Government have asked HPA for advice concerning the report's recommendations. Government will consider the HPA's advice and, should any further measures be considered as part of a precautionary approach, would consult stakeholders as part of the process. A copy of the SAGE report has been placed in the Library.

First Aid: Emergency Calls

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many first responders were available for call outs within *(a)* Cirencester and *(b)* the Cotswolds in each of the last five years; how many are currently available; and how many she expects to be available by the end of 2007; [144485]

(2) how many ambulances were available for call outs at peak times in *(a)* Cirencester and *(b)* the Cotswolds in each of the last five years; how many are currently available; and how many she expects to be available by the end of 2007. [144486]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W, on general practitioners, what remit her Department was given by HM Treasury for the negotiation of the contract following the discussions; [144493]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 288W, on doctors: contracts, which *(a)* Treasury and *(b)* Department of Health Ministers participated in the discussions; [144500]

(3) whether the discussions referred to included consideration of *(a)* the GP contract and *(b)* the consultant contract in the form in which these contracts were finally agreed; [144501]

(4) whether her Department gained HM Treasury approval for general practitioners no longer being obliged to provide out-of-hours care during the discussions. [144502]

Andy Burnham: Treasury Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with their counterparts at the Department as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 571W, on general practitioners, (1) what internal mechanism her Department established for considering and informing progress on the contract negotiations; [144512]

(2) whether there was a start date for the discussions keeping the general medical services contract under constant review; and what the Government's objective is in these discussions; [144513]

(3) at what level discussions between HM Treasury and her Department take place; [144514]

(4) whether representatives from other *(a)* NHS and *(b)* Government bodies or departments were present at the regular update meetings held between the NHS Confederation and her Department. [144516]

Andy Burnham: It is normal practice to keep all policy initiatives under review. As with all major initiatives the Department's aim is to improve existing arrangements.

Revisions of the general medical services contract have always sought to secure additional benefits to patients and taxpayers.

As part of the regular process of this review, discussions between Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department have and continue to take place at both official and ministerial level as appropriate.

Our regular discussions with NHS Confederation, now NHS Employers, include representatives from the four health departments and any executive agencies as needed, e.g. Officials from the Information Centre.

Health Professions: Training

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications have been received for ST1-4 medical positions by the Medical Training Application Service in the last 12 months; and how many posts were available. [124719]

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total number of specialist training places for 2007 intake is, broken down by *(a)* deanery and *(b)* level of specialist training. [137205]

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many applicants are in the process of applying for posts via Modernising Medical Careers; how many posts are available; and how many such posts in the 2007 round are for *(a)* specialist training and *(b)* fixed-term specialist training appointments; [135536]

(2) how many applicants there were from round 1 of Modernising Medical Careers; and how many posts are available. [128841]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following tables and is correct as taken from a survey of English deaneries on the 14 June. However, the numbers will change regularly as additional posts are confirmed during the 2007 recruitment process.

The number of posts available for the 2007 recruitment process is in the following table.

	Posts on MTAS 19 April								
	Run-through	*FTSTA*	*Academic*	*Total*	*Round 1 posts not on MTAS added after 19 April*[2]	*Estimated GP posts filled outside MTAS*	*New run-through programmes in round 2*	*Estimated new FTSTAs and GP posts in round 2*[1]	*Overall total of training posts in 2007*[2]
UK	14,595	4,392	185	19,172	108	3,450	215	302	23,247
England	11,916	3,485	182	15,583	108	2,828	215	302	19,036

[1] Taken from a survey of English deaneries on 14 June. Figure only includes the posts in England and not those in the devolved Administrations because the survey only covered English deaneries. We expect there to be additional new posts in the devolved Administrations.
[2] As set out in footnote 1, the UK total does not include the new round 2 posts in the devolved Administrations.

Across the UK, 34,389 candidates submitted applications on MTAS during the first recruitment round and made 127,948 applications. Of these, 32,600[4] applicants made at least one eligible application and a total of 118,600[3] eligible applications are recorded on the MTAS system. Of the eligible applicants, 29,600[3] were already working in training or non-training posts in the NHS.

The number of posts broken down by deanery is shown in the following table.

	Numbers updated by English Deanery Survey 14 June			
	Round 1 posts (including those added after 19 April)	*Additional round 2 run-through programmes*	*Estimated new posts in round 2 (including FTSTAs held back)*	*Overall total*
Eastern	1,178	15	0	1,193
England and Wales Histopathology	64	—	—	64
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland[4]	432	—	64	496
London/KSS	4,589	25	125	4,739
Mersey	794	37	0	831
North Western	1,400	17	5	1,422
Northern	976	14	10	1,000
Oxford	628	1	15	644
Severn	665	11	1	677
South Yorkshire and South Humber	529	13	0	542
Southwest Peninsula	489	12	9	510
Trent[4]	586	15	0	601
Wessex	627	12	17	656
West Midlands	1,679	32	34	1,745
Yorkshire	1,055	11	22	1,088
Total England	15,691	215	302	16,208
Defence Medical Services[5]	30	—	—	30
Scotland[5]	2,004	—	—	2,004
Northern Ireland[5]	525	—	—	525
Wales[5]	1,030	—	—	1,030
Total UK	19,280	—	—	19,797
UK GP posts filled outside MTAs	—	—	—	3,450
Overall Total	—	—	—	23,247

[3] This figure is an estimate derived by inference from the data provided by applicants on the MTAS system.
[4] Trent and the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland deaneries have since combined into a single East Midlands deanery. The additional round 2 run-through programmes for East Midlands have been entered in the Trent UoA row.
[5] We do not have any additional information to that on MTAS 19 April. We expect there to be additional new posts in the devolved Administrations.

Number of posts by level as at 19 April on MTAS is shown in the following table (not including GP posts filled outside MTAS, extra round 1 posts added since 19 April, or extra round 2 posts as these cannot be broken down by level).

Level	Type	UK	England
ST1	Total	7,687	6,346
	Run-Through	6,058	4,989
	FTSTA	1,529	1,258
	Academic	100	99
ST2	Total	6,563	5,241
	Run-Through	4,106	3,354
	FTSTA	2,442	1,872
	Academic	15	15
ST3	Total	4,153	3,343
	Run-Through	3,673	2,931
	FTSTA	417	351
	Academic	63	61
ST4	Total	769	653
	Run-Through	758	642
	FTSTA	4	4
	Academic	7	7
Total		19,172	15,583

Note:
England figures exclude the devolved Administration deaneries and Defence Medical Services.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of round 2 interviews that will take place via the Medical Training Application Service recruitment process; and if she will make a statement. [145662]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The online Medical Training Application Service is not being used for the round 2 recruitment process. This further recruitment round is being run locally by deaneries.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of round 1 *(a)* offers made and *(b)* interviews held through the Medical Training Application Service to date; and if she will make a statement. [145663]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of offers made is not collected centrally. The number of interviews held in round 1 was approximately 40,800 in the United Kingdom and 32,200 in England. England guaranteed interviews for all first choice applications (other than those for general practice) after repreferencing. The Devolved Administrations offered interviews for all four applications. As a result approximately a further 23,400 interviews were held in the UK; 16,300 in England.

Health Services: Immigrants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to prevent the NHS treating illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers in circumstances where they have no entitlement to such treatment. [145629]

Ms Rosie Winterton: People who are living lawfully in the United Kingdom for a settled purpose, are entitled to register with a general practice. Regulations do allow practices discretion over whom they register and if the practice list is not closed to new applications the practice must have reasonable and non-discriminatory grounds for refusing an application. Being an illegal immigrant or failed asylum seeker would be such grounds.

For hospital treatment, anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, including illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers, is subject to the provisions of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. These regulations require national health service bodies providing hospital services to establish whether a patient is ordinarily resident and, if not, whether they are covered by any of the exemptions in the regulations. If the patient is not exempt, they should be charged for any NHS hospital services provided.

Health Services: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of which companies *(a)* have direct experience of managing a healthcare commissioning budget in the UK or internationally of at least £300,000,000 and *(b)* have supported commissioning for populations over 90,000. [145633]

Andy Burnham: To support the local national health service in undertaking commissioning functions, the Department has recently assessed organisations against a number of criteria through the development of the framework for procuring external support for commissioners (FESC). The procurement of the FESC has been conducted in compliance with European Union law.

Organisations involved in the FESC procurement have, along with a range of other criteria, been assessed against their track-record of supporting commissioning for populations over 90,000 rather than against experience of managing a healthcare commissioning budget.

Herbal Medicine: EC Law

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will require the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to discuss the identification of products made from organic ingredients with representatives of the manufacturers of herbal remedies marketed under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and if she will make a statement. [144790]

Caroline Flint: Following discussions in 2006 the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency met representatives of the Herbal Forum (a group representing manufacturers' trade associations in the herbal sector) and the Soil Association on 14 June 2007 to discuss the development of organic standards which are appropriate to the production of herbal medicinal products, and how products meeting those standards can be identified. We understand that the Herbal Forum intends to bring forward proposals and we will give them careful consideration.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons domiciliary consultations by consultants with general practitioners were discontinued by the NHS. [140538]

Andy Burnham: There is nothing to stop domiciliary consultations by consultants with general practitioners in principle. However, these should normally be scheduled as part of the programmed activities that make up the consultant's job plan. Alternatively, a consultant may retain any fee that is paid for domiciliary consultations undertaken in the consultant's own time.

Hospitals: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected financial position is of *(a)* Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, *(b)* Worthing and Southlands Hospital, *(c)* Princess Royal, Haywards Heath and *(d)* St. Richards Hospital, Chichester for the end of the financial year 2007-08; and what the financial position of each was at the end of the last financial year. [145845]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is collected by national health service trusts, and not by hospitals.

The quarter 4, 2006-07 provisional outturn surplus/(deficit) and 2007-08 provisional plan year end forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, the Royal West Sussex NHS Trust and the Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust are shown in the following table.

£ million

NHS Trust	*2006-07 quarter 4 provisional outturn surplus/(deficit)*	*2007-08 provisional plan year end forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) data*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS trust	(5.3)	(4.5)
Worthing and Southlands hospitals NHS trust	(6)	0
The Royal West Sussex NHS trust	1.5	0.67

Source:
Quarter 4 2006-07 Department of Health financial monitoring returns
Financial plans for 2007-08 are subject to final validation and sign-off with the NHS.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS primary care trust allocated to each district general hospital within its boundaries in each of the last three years; what proportion of each trust's budget that represented in each year; and what the projected figures are for 2007-08. [145950]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not national health service trusts or individual hospitals. We do not collect centrally, information on funding flows between PCTs and NHS trusts.

Hospitals: Greater London

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the occupation costs were for each of the six hospital trust sites in South East London in each of the last three years. [145948]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information in the following table is as provided by the organisation concerned and has not been amended.

Trust name	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bexley Care Trust	1,627,616	1,559,498	1,869,264
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	18,196,822	14,903,664	22,948,322
Oxleas NHS Trust	9,916,562	9,681,675	12,218,574
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	19,092,305	23,658,087	26,079,201
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	51,474,820	13,434,702	Not available
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	10,509,038	11,517,772	12,823,300
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	7,274,001	8,443,453	10,464,410
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	6,668,227	6,362,439	18,869,437
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	10,080,618	11,621,044	13,775,016

The data represent the occupancy costs (capital charges, rent, rates, maintenance, energy and utility) for the trusts in the South East London Strategic Health Authority for the last three years they were collected.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of hospital acquired infections have been reported at *(a)* Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, *(b)* Worthing Hospital and *(c)* St Richard's Hospital, Chichester in each of the last five years. [145829]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available. The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance system, which provides the data for acute national health service trusts in England rather than individual hospitals on the following:

the number of reports of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections (bacteraemias) from April 2001 to 31 December 2006 (table 1);

the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* for patients aged 65 and over from January 2004 to December 2006 (table 2);

the number of glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2005 (table 3); and

the number of surgical site infections (SSI) reported as part of the mandatory surveillance of SSI following orthopaedic surgery between April 2004 and March 2006 (table 4).

The Sussex county hospital, Brighton, is part of Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust; St. Richard's hospital, Chichester, is part of Royal West Sussex NHS trust and Worthing hospital is part of Worthing and Southlands NHS trust. The mandatory surveillance data for these NHS Trusts are shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Number of reported blood stream infections (bacteraemia) from April 2001 to December 2006

	April to March					
Trust	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*April 2006 to December 2006*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	86	74	107	129	141	80
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	34	25	23	27	27	19
Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust	21	15	22	34	46	39

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Table 2: Annual counts of Clostridium difficile from January 2004 to December 2006

	January to December		
Trust	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	368	472	588
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	270	261	395
Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust	135	195	298

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Table 3: Glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2005

	1 October to 30 September	
Trust	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	5	2
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	0	1
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	0	1

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Table 4: Surgical site infections from April 2004 to March 2006

		Number of surgical site infections/number procedures included in surveillance	
Trust	*Surgical procedure*	*April 2004 to March 2005*	*April 2005 to March 2006*
Brighton and Sussex NHS Trust	Total hip prothesis	[1]1/223	[2]4/132
	Knee prothesis	[1]2/207	[2]3/147
	Hip hemiarthroplasty	[2]1/121	[2]3/147
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	Total hip prothesis	[3]0/141	[3]6/273
	Knee prothesis	[3]1/136	—
	Hip hemiarthroplasty	[3]0/45	[3]1/103
Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust	Total hip prothesis	[4]4/70	—
	Knee prothesis	—	[4]1/70
	Hip hemiarthroplasty	[4]4/57	—

[1] 9 months data.
[2] 6 months data.
[3] 12 months data.
[4] 4 months data.
Notes:
1. Trusts can participate in surveillance for part or all of the year.
2. Differences in reported rates of SSI between these trusts are not statistically significant.
Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Hospitals: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on hospital ward closures in North Yorkshire. [145657]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The service modernisation and financial recovery plan of the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) aims to invest £9 million in developing community-based services. This will enable patients to access care in their own home where clinically appropriate, which will reduce unnecessary admissions to local acute hospitals, supporting the PCT in its return to financial health.

The development of community-based services and efficiency gains have resulted in changes in bed capacity in the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department provides to hospitals on provision of parking permits to community nurses. [144759]

Andy Burnham: Arrangements and charges for car parking on health care premises are a matter for individual national health service bodies, taking account of all the relevant local factors. This includes what, if any, concessions, exemptions or permits to offer staff.

NHS bodies have income generation powers which allow them to raise additional income by marketing any spare capacity resulting from a non-core function, or by exploiting intellectual property rights. Certain rules must be followed, including the fact that profits raised must be used to improve health services. Charging for car parking is a common example of an income generation scheme.

The Department issued revised and updated guidance on car parking schemes to the NHS in December 2006. This guidance includes recommendations that any scheme should take into consideration the needs of staff, including whether to provide subsidised or free parking for particular categories of staff.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department plans to take to *(a)* support and *(b)* penalise those health trusts which fail to meet the 18 week waiting time target by the target date in December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [144160]

Andy Burnham: Specific arrangements for 2008-09 will be set out later in 2007. Currently, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities are responsible for ensuring that the 18 week target is met. The Department is also currently providing intensive support to the most challenged local health communities to deliver the 18 week target.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients in London waited for *(a)* 13 weeks, *(b)* 14 weeks, *(c)* 15 weeks, *(d)* 16 weeks and *(e)* 17 weeks and over for a first out-patient admission in each quarter since June 2005 in each primary care trust; [144161]

(2) how many patients in London waited for *(a)* 20 weeks, *(b)* 21 weeks, *(c)* 22 weeks, *(d)* 23 weeks and *(e)* 24 weeks and over from in-patient diagnosis to treatment in each quarter since June 2005 in each primary care trust. [144162]

Andy Burnham: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: West Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she first saw the proposed consultation document produced by West Sussex Primary Care Trust on reconfiguration of hospital services. [145834]

Caroline Flint: The Secretary of State has not seen this consultation document and does not routinely ask for consultation documents, which are published as a matter of course as part of the consultation process. Proposals for reconfiguration and the management of consultations are a matter for the national health service locally.

Human Tissue Authority

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the formation of the new Human Tissue Authority. [144716]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Human Tissue Authority was established in April 2005 under the Human Tissue Act 2004. Its role is to regulate the removal, storage, use and disposal of human bodies, organs and tissue for a number of purposes set out in Schedule 1 to the Act, such as research, transplantation, education and training.

Further information on the authority can be found on its website at www.hta.gov.uk.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many knife wound injuries were treated in hospitals in West Lancashire in each year since 1997. [144824]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the requested format. The following tables show figures for admissions classified as contact with knife, sword or dagger. These figures do not include any patients who were treated for knife wounds in accident and emergency departments but were not admitted, or patients who were treated in an out-patient setting. Values between one and five are not included due to reasons of confidentiality.

	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	*Southport and Formby NHS Trust*	*West Lancashire NHS Trust*
2005-06	*	n/a	n/a
2004-05	*	n/a	n/a
2003-04	6	n/a	n/a
2002-03	*	n/a	n/a
2001-02	6	n/a	n/a
2000-01	*	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	8	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	*	*
1997-98	n/a	*	*

Notes:
RVY Southport and Ormskirk Hospital national health service Trust was formed in 1999-2000 from REQ Southport and Formby NHS Trust and part of RJV West Lancashire NHS Trust. As this was not a simple merger figures prior to 1999-2000 are shown for information only and should not be compared to the figures for 1999-2000 to 2005-06.

	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	*Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust*	*Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Community Health Services NHS Trust*
2005-06	*	n/a	n/a
2004-05	9	n/a	n/a
2003-04	*	n/a	n/a
2002-03	*	n/a	n/a
2001-02	n/a	*	0
2000-01	n/a	6	0
1999-2000	n/a	*	0
1998-99	n/a	10	0
1997-98	n/a	*	0

Notes:
RXL Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 2002-03 from RMR Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust and part of RML Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Community Health Services NHS Trust. As this was not a simple merger figures prior to 2002-03 are shown for information only and should not be compared to the figures for 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Cause code
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.

Low numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk.

Data quality
Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Wi-Fi: Health Hazards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has issued advice to local education authorities and schools on the use of Wi-Fi. [145502]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not issued any advice to the local education authorities and schools on the use of Wi-Fi.

Junior Doctors: Recruitment

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly qualified medical students *(a)* applied for junior doctor training posts and *(b)* were successful in their application in the most recent period for which figures are available. [127207]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A total of 6,465 applications were received for Modernising Medical Careers 2007 Foundation Programme (UK-wide). All 6,205 eligible applicants were offered a place on a foundation training programme.

Junior Doctors: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what administrative mechanisms her Department used to plan the Medical Training Application Service. [144979]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department used a project-based approach using Prince methodology to set up the Medical Training Application Service web service to support Modernising Medical Careers medical training recruitment. Detailed planning was approved by the project board.

Kidney Disease

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people likely to receive renal replacement therapy over the next 10 years. [145360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Part one of the renal national service framework (NSF), which was published in 2004, sets out the Department's view of likely trends in the population requiring renal replacement therapy in the medium term. In the NSF, we estimated that numbers of people with end stage renal failure and requiring renal replacement therapy would increase to around 45,000 over the 10 years ending 2014. The projected overall annual growth rate in the population requiring renal replacement therapy averages 4.5 per cent. to 5 per cent. per year. A higher rate of growth (6 per cent. to 8 per cent.) is expected in the number of patients needing hospital-based haemodialysis, and in the number of elderly kidney patients.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment for the management of chronic kidney disease in each year since 2000. [145359]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no national registry of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The overwhelming majority of people with CKD are under the care of general practitioners and do not need to be seen by secondary or tertiary hospital services.

At general practice level, the maintenance of a practice register of patients with CKD became a part of the Quality and Outcomes Framework in April 2006, which should mean that a very comprehensive CKD dataset will develop over the next few years.

Lymphoma

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials within her Department are responsible for lymphoma policy and implementation, broken down by grade. [144767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cancer policy team work with the National Cancer Director to develop policy on cancer and end of life care. The responsibilities of the team members are divided along the patient pathway rather than by individual cancer type.

There are 25.95 full-time equivalent members of the cancer policy team and the following table shows them broken down by grade.

Grade	*Number*
Senior Civil Service	1
Grade 6	3
Grade 7	6.25
Fast stream	1
SEO	6.5
HEO	2.8
EO	4
AO	1.4
Total	25.95

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the role of patient involvement in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's appraisals of new lymphatic cancer treatments. [144768]

Caroline Flint: The public and patient involvement unit of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has well-developed strategies for ensuring that appropriate patient and carer organisations are invited to act as stakeholders or consultees in all NICE's guidance programmes, including technology appraisals. Lists of all stakeholders involved in each piece of guidance are published on NICE's website at www.nice.org.uk

All NICE's advisory committees include individuals with experience of patient or carer advocacy.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to continue funding for pump-primed lymphoma nurse specialist positions; and if she will increase expenditure on such positions. [144769]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for local trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly, which includes provision of specialist nursing posts. Where agreements have been made for alternate funding of these posts, this is a local matter.

Meat Hygiene Service: Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies are engaged by the Meat Hygiene Service to provide contract *(a)* veterinary and *(b)* meat inspection services. [144860]

Caroline Flint: The companies engaged by the Meat Hygiene Service to provide contract official veterinarians and meat hygiene inspectors are as follows:

Official veterinarians

Hygiene Audit
Carrick Veterinary Centre
Onevet and Co.
Grants Veterinary Services Ltd.
Hallmark Meat Hygiene Ltd.
Gordon Laboratory Group Ltd.
Aker
Aro Company Ltd.
Sta Vets
Eville and Jones
Scotvet OVS Services
Raoul Dowding Veterinary Services
Perriferell Veterinary Services
The Corporation of London
Willows Veterinary Group
VMHS Ltd.
Merlin Veterinary Group
Cranley John
Harbit and Ryder
Fenton Veterinary Centre
Clyde Veterinary Group
Lerwick Veterinary Practice
S. A. Goodall
Deveron Veterinary Surgeons
Miller and Swann Vet. Surgeons
McTaggart Veterinary Group
Malcolm J Wheeler
Armac Veterinary Group
Southern Isles Vet. Practice
Patrick A Boyd
The Crofts Veterinary Centre
Bellevue Veterinary Group
Bodrwnsiwn Veterinary Group
F C I—Food Consultancy and Inspection Ltd.
E.LL. Williams
Paws Veterinary Health Centre
Acorn Vets Ltd.
Jeffrey Kidner
Mount Services Wellington LTD
Michael Gratton
Quarry Veterinary Group
The Avenue Veterinary Centre
Hook Norton
Old Courts Veterinary Practice
Crescent Veterinary Clinic
G and P J Nute
Oaksford and Birch
Midforest Veterinary Practice
Pearson, Thompson and Callery
John Highet Ltd.
Sinclair and Wight
Paragon Veterinary Group
County Veterinary Group
Conanvet

Meat hygiene inspectors

Hygiene Audit
Grants Veterinary Services Ltd.
VMHS Ltd.
Eville and Jones
The Corporation Of London
F C I—Food Consultancy and Inspection Ltd.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what hourly charges the Meat Hygiene Service pays to each contract agency in respect of *(a)* contract veterinarians and *(b)* contract meat inspectors. [144861]

Caroline Flint: The Meat Hygiene Service is unable to disclose the contents of individual contracts because the information contained therein is commercially sensitive.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* contract veterinarians and *(b)* contract meat inspectors are employed by the Meat Hygiene Service. [144862]

Caroline Flint: During the year 2006-07, the Meat Hygiene Service had an annual average full-time equivalent of 312 contract official veterinarians, and 213 contract meat hygiene inspectors.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) carries out to determine the technical competence of contract veterinarians and contract meat inspectors; and what actions have been taken by the MHS in circumstances where such contractors have not met that level of technical competence. [144863]

Caroline Flint: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) holds contracts with a number of companies for the supply of official veterinarians (OVs) and meat hygiene inspectors. The contracts specify the qualifications and level of technical competence required by the MHS. When deployed to approved establishments, the technical competence of all contract staff is assessed and monitored; in-depth initially and periodically thereafter. Each month the technical competency of contract staff is assessed by the MHS as part of contract performance management against a range of key performance indicators. Contractors will also periodically assess the technical competence of their staff.

In addition to the above management checks, the MHS Internal Audit Unit undertakes audits in approved establishments to assess whether MHS teams, which may include contract OVs and meat hygiene inspectors, are carrying out their duties in line with written instructions and regulatory requirements. The Internal Audit Unit also audits contractors' procedures, including the recruitment, induction, training and development, and appraisal of contract OVs and meat hygiene inspectors.

In cases where a contract veterinarian or meat hygiene inspector is assessed as not meeting the required level of technical competence, the employing contractor is instructed to remove the individual and provide a technically competent replacement.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was to the Meat Hygiene Service of hiring contract veterinarians and contract meat inspectors in each of the last three years. [144864]

Caroline Flint: The Meat Hygiene Service's expenditure on contract official veterinarians and contract meat hygiene inspectors in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table.

£ million

Financial year	*Contract official veterinarian cost*	*Contract meat hygiene inspector cost*
2004-05	22.3	1.4
2005-06	21.9	4.5
2006-07	20.6	8.9

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what controls she plans to put in place to ensure that patient records entered on the electronic care record database are not misused by researchers using the secondary uses service. [144982]

Caroline Flint: The primary purpose of the national health service care records service (NHS CRS) is to support the delivery of care to patients. However, the aim is that data extracted from NHS services supporting direct patient care, including the NHS care records service, choose and book and electronic transmission of prescriptions, will be made available either in aggregate form or, where detailed information is provided, in anonymised or pseudonymised form, via the so-called secondary uses service. The use of consistent pseudonym enables individual cases to be tracked.

Identifiable information will be available only where patient consent has been formally given or where specific permissions apply. Permission is required from the Patient Information Advisory Group (PIAG), set up under the Health and Social Care Act 2001. The PIAG assesses each application to test that the use of patient information is justified, taking into account issues of confidentiality and consent.

Access to the secondary uses service requires each user to be formally registered and to use individual smart card access, just as for other systems in the national programme for information technology. Each user is allocated a role which determines what reports, and what organisations or geography of data they may access. Key user activities, including logon and extraction of data, are recorded.

The Secondary Uses Group set up by the Care Record Development Board to advise on the ethical use of patient data and how the potential for research, statistics and management can be realised without compromising confidentiality or security, is due to report shortly.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from GPs on plans to create an electronic care record for patients; and what assessment she has made of the implications for patient confidentiality of such a scheme. [144983]

Caroline Flint: Since the start of the national programme for information technology, the Department and NHS Connecting for Health have worked closely with individual, and groups of general practitioners (GPs), including the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Health Informat :s Standing Group. At the outset, the aim was to ensure that the wealth of some 20 years experience in clinical computing, in particular clinical noting and medication management, was distilled into the output based specification (OBS) for the integrated care records service. The OBS, which was published in July 2003, set the template for the subsequent procurement of all the clinical systems. Week-long design workshops were held to clearly define complex areas of functionality, in which the input of many GPs, both individual, and as representatives from RCGP and British Medical Association committees, was key.

Since that time, representatives of around 60 professional organisations, including 14 Royal Colleges, among them the RCGP, have participated on national advisory groups which provide a forum for debate on development and implementation of the national programme, and the sharing of specialist expertise and experience of organisations that are already benefiting from IT implementation. Of NHS Connecting for Health's eight National Clinical Leads—senior figures representing different areas of the health service—two are for general practitioners.

NHS Connecting for Health continues to engage on a daily basis with clinicians throughout England, and as a direct result of feedback from clinicians, improvements continue to be made across the range of programmes. This involvement is impossible to quantify precisely, but equates to hundreds of staff years of input.

With regard to patient confidentiality, while no system can be 100 per cent. secure, we believe that the procedural and technical safeguards surrounding the new electronic care record service provide an unprecedented degree of assurance of security for national programme systems and services, and confidentiality of the personal data they will contain. With regard to specific evaluation arrangements, a ministerial taskforce was established in 2006 specifically to consider matters relating to confidentiality and patient consent. This taskforce reported in December 2006 and the follow-up actions are being overseen by an advisory group chaired by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer. In addition, a contract for independent evaluation of the summary care record early adopter programme, now under way in the north-west, has been awarded to a team at University College London. The evaluation will involve extensive fieldwork to capture the views and experiences of GPs, practice managers, nurses, other NHS clinical and management staff, and, of course, patients. The final report of the evaluation will be published in summer 2008, but emerging findings will influence the continued rollout of the summary care record.

Mentally Ill: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health patients moved on to independent living in each London borough in each of the last five years. [145505]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected by the Department.

Midwives: Insurance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to require independent midwives to obtain professional indemnity insurance; and whether there is any requirement by the European Commission for her Department to compel independent midwives to obtain such insurance. [144363]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our intention is to include provision for compulsory indemnity insurance as a condition of registration, as the opportunity arises in wider legislative change.

European Directive 2005/36 on the recognition of professional qualifications allows (but does not require) regulatory bodies to demand evidence of indemnity insurance from incoming European migrants, provided that they demand the same information from United Kingdom nationals.

Midwives: Manpower

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS workforce in England was represented by midwives in 2006, expressed in terms of *(a)* headcount and *(b)* whole-time equivalent. [144289]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the proportion of the national health service work force in England represented by midwives as at September 2006 in terms of both headcount and full-time equivalent.

NHS staff in England as at 30 September 2006

	Headcount	*Percentage of work force*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Percentage of work force*
Total employed staff (including GP and practice staff)	1,338,140	100	1,095,163	100
Of which:				
Registered midwives	24,469	2	18,862	2

Sources:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.
3. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

MRSA: Conquest Hospital

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA have been detected at the Conquest hospital in East Sussex; and if she will make a statement. [144772]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The data is not available as requested. The best available information is from the mandatory methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections surveillance that began in April 2001 and covers acute national health service trusts in England rather than individual hospitals.

The Conquest hospital is part of the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust and the number of reported MRSA blood stream infections for that trust for the period April 2001 to December 2006 is shown in the following table.

East Sussex hospitals NHS trust

	Number of reported blood stream infections (bacteraemia)
April 2001-March 2002	67
April 2002-March 2003	52
April 2003-March 2004	60
April 2004-March 2005	42
April 2005-March 2006	59
April 2006-December 2006	71

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what facilities and treatment are available for sufferers of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. [145497]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is currently aimed at controlling symptoms to maximize the quality of life. This primarily involves physiotherapy and other supportive treatments, including pharmacological interventions, physical activity, surgery and the provision of orthopaedic appliances. Appropriate respiratory support is available as the disease progresses.

The new translational research centre for neuromuscular diseases at University College London is one of six new Medical Research Council funded research centres that will translate scientific discoveries into new drugs, therapies, diagnostic tools, and methods of prevention. This will be the first such centre in the United Kingdom for the study of disabling diseases like DMD and will facilitate the rapid transfer of research knowledge to the clinical environment.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who within her Department is responsible for championing the implementation of the musculoskeletal services framework. [145847]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's 18 weeks orthopaedics project team, led by Philippa Robinson, 18 Weeks National Implementation Director, is working to address the particular issues in orthopaedics, and to maximise the benefits of moving care closer to home. Following the publication of the musculoskeletal services framework in July 2006, the 18 week orthopaedic project is working closely with the NHS to support the implementation of the good practice set out in the musculoskeletal services framework.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have established clinical assessment and treatment services as encouraged by the musculoskeletal services framework. [145849]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS Blood and Transplant: Birmingham

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the decision to close the National Blood Service Centre in Birmingham; and what discussions she has held with the *(a)* Unison and *(b)* Unite trade unions concerning the decision. [145429]

Caroline Flint: The National Blood Service (NBS) infrastructure is not fully adequate for modern processing and testing requirements. The testing and processing facilities require investment and modernisation which is planned as part of the NHS Blood and Transplant Service Strategy. As part of this, the NBS will consolidate blood processing and testing activity into fewer, modern, more flexible buildings. This is being led with the development of an entirely new site at Filton, Bristol, and this will allow the NBS to meet current and prospective national health service needs, effectively and efficiently.

The proposed changes will not impact upon the service to local hospitals. The centres in Birmingham will continue to provide critical services to local hospitals such as continuing to have a local blood bank to meet hospital orders for blood.

I formally met with representatives of Unison and Amicus in December 2006 to discuss the proposals by the NBS.

NHS Bodies and Premises: Inspections

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1198W, on NHS bodies and premises: inspections, which organisations can conduct inspections of NHS bodies and premises under her authority; and whether her Department maintains a list of all organisations which have the power to inspect NHS bodies and premises. [131878]

Andy Burnham: The Healthcare Commission, in their role as the lead inspectorate for health, co-ordinates other regulatory bodies to promote effective and proportionate inspection and regulation.

The Department does not itself maintain a list of organisations who have the power to inspect national health service bodies and premises.

The Healthcare Inspection Concordat was launched in June 2004 to promote better co-ordinated inspection and minimise the data collection burden on NHS trusts. Twenty of the key inspecting bodies in health, including the Department as an associate signatory, are formally signed up to its principles. The Healthcare Commission has been in discussion with various regulatory bodies about their becoming signatories to the concordat.

The list of the 20 signatories is available at:

www.concordat.org.uk/_db/_documents/Concordat_-_version_(May_06).pdf

NHS Commissioning

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the commitment by the Minister of State of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 62WH, in a debate on NHS Commissioning, when the Minister of State will visit the Warrington Campus of the University of Chester. [145377]

Andy Burnham: A visit to the Warrington Campus of the University of Chester has been provisionally arranged for the morning of Friday 20 July.

NHS: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* NHS hospital and community health services and *(c)* NHS maternity services in the 2006-07 financial year. [144288]

Andy Burnham: The information for 2006-07 will not be available until the audited accounts are published in the autumn of 2007.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1391W, on NHS: finance, which organisation collects data on the number of practices receiving component two of the payment. [145641]

Andy Burnham: Decisions on the payment of component two of the Directed Enhanced Service (DES) are made by primary care trusts (PCTs) following an assessment of whether practices have fulfilled the commitments in their practice-based commissioning plans. It is for PCTs to maintain data on these DES payments.

NHS: Foreign Nationals

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to local NHS bodies on claiming money from foreign nationals who use NHS services. [145890]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is subject to the provisions of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. These require NHS bodies providing hospital services to establish whether a patient is ordinarily resident or, if not, exempt from charges under one of the exemption categories set out in the regulations. Anyone who is not exempt should be charged for any hospital treatment provided.

The charging regulations were amended in April 2004. At the same time the Department issued comprehensive revised and updated guidance to NHS trusts on implementation of the amended regulations.

NHS: Greater London

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided, net of Department of Health penalties and top-slicing

clawback *(a)* in total and *(b)* by head of population to each NHS care trust in London in each of the last five years. [145951]

Andy Burnham: Table 1 shows the final revenue resource limits (RRL) for primary care trusts (PCTs) covered by London strategic health authority (SHA) for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06. For 2006-07, the provisional outturn figure has been used. The RRLs quoted take account of any adjustments made to the initial allocations to PCTs, including top-slice and clawback, throughout the year.

Table 2 shows the 2003-04 to 2005-06 allocations per unweighted head for PCTs covered by London SHA. Table 3 shows the 2006-07 to 2007-08 revenue allocations per unweighted head for PCTs covered by London SHA. Actual allocations to PCTs are, however, informed by a weighted-capitation formula and pace of change policy.

Table 1

£000

	Revenue Resource Limit				*Provisional Plan data Forecast Revenue Resource Limit*
Primary Care Trust	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking and Dagenham	162,183	200,142	219,267	231,066	271,438
Barnet	344,550	398,406	423,457	414,624	437,378
Bexley Care Trust	197,939	229,824	236,325	249,460	267,166
Brent Teaching	320,633	375,069	380,427	402,520	425,557
Bromley	306,466	341,408	370,576	369,444	387,743
Camden	131,260	361,058	303,167	371,387	370,239
City and Hackney Teaching	276,799	333,748	367,398	369,115	401,608
Croydon	324,472	378,024	402,884	415,217	451,697
Ealing	334,341	406,485	440,645	440,512	460,810
Enfield	271,733	306,478	329,195	342,548	363,764
Greenwich Teaching	278,652	306,262	327,241	342,518	368,931
Hammersmith and Fulham	201,593	232,170	245,150	271,912	269,042
Haringey Teaching	270,224	316,190	339,105	344,664	367,448
Harrow	194,385	225,865	233,872	244,626	255,365
Havering	241,083	274,718	301,106	313,845	319,370
Hillingdon	229,600	267,562	284,584	251,222	310,790
Hounslow	241,039	286,088	272,129	286,689	309,262
Islington	248,684	312,179	332,501	340,956	345,180
Kensington and Chelsea	233,571	270,019	282,628	281,189	296,754
Kingston	153,864	184,480	194,951	182,959	208,411
Lambeth	399,056	466,357	500,422	480,365	524,296
Lewisham	299,691	350,836	371,791	398,974	401,438
Newham	301,286	353,753	392,188	415,287	436,144
Redbridge	213,698	250,152	273,607	288,732	317,605
Richmond and Twickenham	173,343	212,777	225,432	216,357	226,249
Southwark	309,150	364,928	402,296	396,937	429,545
Sutton and Merton	378,656	418,299	446,703	443,661	481,466
Tower Hamlets	257,435	315,451	268,131	352,015	372,537
Waltham Forest	247,358	280,129	301,099	307,015	337,446
Wandsworth	320,641	356,382	363,193	398,889	424,759
Westminster	303,647	344,902	363,958	357,925	385,728
Total	8,336,602	9,722,141	10,385,428	10,522,633	11,225,166

Source:
Audited London PCT summarisation forms
Department of Health financial monitoring returns
Financial plans for 2007-08 as subject to final validation and sign off with the national health service

Table 2

£

	allocation per unweighted head		
Organisation	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	936	1,045	1,270
Barnet	940	1,017	1,197
Bexley Care Trust	878	957	1,141
Brent Teaching	1,048	1,162	1,381
Bromley	881	955	1,132
Camden	1,217	1,317	1,522

Table 2

£

	allocation per unweighted head		
Organisation	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
City and Hackney Teaching	1,188	1,310	1,536
Croydon	890	973	1,172
Ealing	1,013	1,108	1,297
Enfield	922	1,008	1,217
Greenwich Teaching	1,031	1,124	1,349

Table 2

£

Organisation	allocation per unweighted head 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,114	1,220	1,403
Haringey Teaching	1,035	1,139	1,357
Harrow	910	993	1,198
Havering	913	998	1,176
Hillingdon	923	1,000	1,177
Hounslow	992	1,085	1,264
Islington	1,375	1,499	1,697
Kensington and Chelsea	1,083	1,148	1,275
Kingston	873	943	1,119
Lambeth	1,156	1,275	1,545
Lewisham	1,137	1,254	1,484
Newham	1,057	1,167	1,441
Redbridge	926	1,008	1,192
Richmond and Twickenham	897	966	1,118
Southwark	1,182	1,303	1,558
Sutton and Merton	901	980	1,166
Tower Hamlets	1,156	1,294	1,565
Waltham Forest	998	1,096	1,308
Wandsworth	1,028	1,125	1,328
Westminster	1,189	1,255	1,421

Table 3

£

Organisation	allocation per unweighted head 2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	1,435	1,581
Barnet	1,282	1,374
Bexley Care Trust	1,233	1,339
Brent Teaching	1,502	1,632
Bromley	1,215	1,306
Camden	1,621	1,727
City and Hackney Teaching	1,671	1,818
Croydon	1,262	1,359
Ealing	1,402	1,516
Enfield	1,317	1,432
Greenwich Teaching	1,452	1,558
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,514	1,626
Haringey Teaching	1,473	1,595
Harrow	1,293	1,396
Havering	1,273	1,384
Hillingdon	1,264	1,358
Hounslow	1,366	1,477
Islington	1,824	1,956
Kensington and Chelsea	1,338	1,407
Kingston	1,197	1,280
Lambeth	1,676	1,812
Lewisham	1,611	1,743
Newham	1,573	1,714
Redbridge	1,282	1,384
Richmond and Twickenham	1,193	1,273
Southwark	1,689	1,825
Sutton and Merton	1,254	1,347
Tower Hamlets	1,695	1,843

Table 3

£

Organisation	allocation per unweighted head 2006-07	2007-08
Waltham Forest	1,415	1,531
Wandsworth	1,429	1,538
Westminster	1,488	1,564

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on NHS: ICT, when the *(a)* engineering-based timetables, *(b)* plan of key milestones and *(c)* evidence-based development plans will be (i) completed and (ii) made publicly available. [145638]

Caroline Flint: Work has been ongoing since the inception of the national programme, in line with normal programme management arrangements, to regularly review and update the engineering-based development and release plans with suppliers. Since plans can be subject to change for a variety of purposes, including new requirements, changed priorities and the business needs of the national health service, this process will continue throughout the life of the contracts.

Detailed implementation planning became the responsibility of individual trusts and the chief executives of strategic health authorities from April 2007. There are no plans to make these details routinely available.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department set up *(a)* a Task Force, *(b)* a Steering Group and *(c)* any other regular series of meetings on the Connecting for Health programme. [144576]

Caroline Flint: Governance arrangements for the national programme for information technology, which is being delivered by NHS Connecting for Health, are based on Cabinet Office best practice.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS made to BUPA in each year since 1997. [144546]

Andy Burnham: The Department, as part of Government accounting rules, only retain financial information for seven years. We are currently in financial year 2007-08 so our records only go back 2001-02. The following available information covers that period. The financial years 2001-02, 2003-04 and 2004-05 contain no transactions.

Payments in financial year 2002-03: £74,812.25

Payments for financial year 2005-06: £12,863,284.81

The background information for these two payments

GSup 2 was a procurement for a period of less than one year to provide additional capacity in various strategic health authority regions which was fully centrally funded. BUPA were one of three providers of the GSup 2 services. The services provided were almost entirely in orthopaedics.

Payment for financial year 2005-06: £299.01

This payment covers insurance for the play schemes that year.

Payments for financial year 2006-07: £832,633.16

These invoices are part of the GSup2 and were submitted across the financial year. The costs would have accrued from 2005-06.

The information requested in respect of the national health service is not held by the Department.

NHS: Public Participation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public consultations were carried out by NHS trusts in 2006-07; and in how many of these consultations the relevant trust's board chose an option which did not have majority public support. [145591]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Under Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (now section 242 of the NHS Act 2006), it is the duty of national health service trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to make appropriate arrangements to involve and consult patients and the public in service planning, in the development of proposals to change services, and in decisions affecting the operation of services.

Pregnancy Book

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2046W, on the Pregnancy Book, if she will make available the initial report on screening for kernicterus. [145888]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A copy of the report, prepared for the United Kingdom National Screening Committee, entitled "Screening for Hyperbilirubinemia" has been placed in the Library.

Prescription Drugs: Channel Islands

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Ministers from her Department last met with representatives of the Government of the Bailiwicks of *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey; whether medicines legislation was discussed; and if she will make a statement. [145643]

Caroline Flint: The Lord Chancellor met with the Chief Minister of Guernsey on 24 April this year. Many issues were discussed including the United Kingdom's view on the Medicines Directive. The Lord Chancellor last met with the Chief Minister of Jersey at a dinner he hosted on 22 February. The opportunity to discuss these directives did not arise.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, how many prescriptions were dispensed in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how many in each year were marked evidence not seen. [145640]

Caroline Flint: The numbers of prescriptions items dispensed in the community in England are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Prescription items dispensed (million)*
2005-06	733.011
2006-07	762.632

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Data on number of prescription items [illegible]ed as evidence not seen are not collected centrally.

Psychology

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's response is to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations on provision of psychological therapies. [142110]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have issued several items of guidance and technology appraisals that are pertinent to the delivery of psychological therapies, including guidelines on the management of depression and schizophrenia which both identified the effectiveness of psychological therapies. To support the local delivery of NICE Technology Appraisal TA097, we issued implementation guidance for computerised cognitive behavioural therapy in March 2007. In November 2005, the Department launched its improving access to psychological therapies programme. This programme is being extended to a further 10 sites (to add to the two original demonstration sites in Doncaster and Newham) in 2007-08. It is also working with primary care trust commissioners to examine how NICE evidence-based psychological therapies can be offered for patients with depression and anxiety disorders.

Psychology: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial support was provided by the NHS for psychological therapies in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [142111]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Financial details of the national health service spend for psychological therapies in 2006-07 and the current financial year are not yet available. The most recent data is provided by the "2005/06 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services" commissioned by the Department and provided by mental health strategies. For the five years from 2001-02 to 2005-06, there has been a net real terms (i.e. net of pay and prices) increase in investment from £125 million to £142 million.

More recently in April 2007, Professor Louis Appleby, the National Director for Mental Health, described in his report "Mental Health Ten Years On: Progress in Mental Health Reform" that the number of clinical psychologists in the NHS had increased to 6,800, a rise of 2,700 (69 per cent.) since 1997.

Recombinant Factor VII

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the parties are to the service level agreement referred to in the answer, *Official Report*, column 817W, on recombinant factor VII of 3 July 2006. [145642]

Caroline Flint: The service level agreement is between the Department and the 10 strategic health authorities.

Royal London Homeopathic Hospital: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the closure of the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital on Brent residents. [144641]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the chair of The University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Robert Naylor informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Selly Oak Hospital: Afghan Nationals

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Afghan nationals have been given treatment in Selly Oak Hospital for *(a)* gunshot wounds and *(b)* wounds caused by grenade fragments in each of the last five years. [145046]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Smoking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirement churches and other places of worship have to display no-smoking signs once the public smoking ban is introduced in England. [145503]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 879W, for details on the legal requirements for the display of no-smoking signs.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed as *(a)* regional tobacco control managers and *(b)* their associated support staff; [145507]

(2) what total budget has been allocated to fund regional tobacco control managers in 2007-08. [145508]

Caroline Flint: Arrangements for regional tobacco control vary around the country. Government Offices of the Regions (GORS) employ some regional tobacco policy managers (RTPMs) and others are employed by primary care trusts. Finance for RTPMs is from a range of sources, including the Department.

The North East region has one full-time equivalent (FTE) RTPM and one FTE support staff and a six month commissioned post of one 0.2 FTE communications officer.

The North West has three FTE posts, including one RTPM.

The East Midlands RPTM post is currently vacant and a recruitment exercise is taking place at the moment.

The South East has an FTE RPTM post and 0.2 FTE administrative support.

The East of England currently has no FTE RTPM or associated support staff. Tobacco control work is undertaken as by 0.5 of FTE for a member of the health programmes team.

The South West has one FTE RTPM and one temporary administrative support varying between 0.4 FTE to one FTE depending on local priorities.

London region has one FTE RTPM and one FTE support.

The West Midlands has a seconded RTPM at 0.8 FTE, additional work is sourced by short-term contracts for specific project work.

Yorkshire and Humberside has one FTE RTPM and a 0.2 FTE administrative support.

In 2007-08, £2 million has been allocated to the regional public health groups' budgets to support work on tobacco control.

Smoking: Prisons

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on delivery of nicotine replacement therapy within prison establishments of *(a)* prison staff levels, *(b)* competing workload demands and *(c)* prisoner transfers between establishments across the Prison Estate; and if she will make a statement. [145269]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since April 2006, commissioning responsibility for prison health services has been fully devolved to primary care trusts (PCT).

For each of the financial years 2003-06, the Department provided an additional £500,000 funding to bring smoking cessation services into prisons in England, including nicotine replacement therapy, in line with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. Resources are now contained within baseline PCT funding and provision is determined by local health needs assessment, in partnership with the prison.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to establish a new consensus for a new, fair and sustainable settlement in social care as stated by the Minister for care services; who the key partners will be in such a consensus; and what definition she uses of *(a)* fair and *(b)* sustainable. [145634]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have provided significant investment in local services, including in the area of social care, since taking office. Total Government grant has increased by 39 per cent, in real terms since 1997 and this has delivered real improvements.

We are committed to ensuring that local authorities can continue to deliver effective local services. We are

working with local government representatives to identify future pressures on local authorities, and the ways in which these can best be managed, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007.

As is normal in the run-up to any Government Spending Review, the Secretary of State and her Ministers hold regular internal meetings to plan the new settlement.

The Government believe it is important that the 2007 CSR is informed by wide public debate on the long-term challenges facing the United Kingdom. Across Government, the public are being engaged on a wide range of issues related to the CSR. In social care, the consultation "Your Health, Your Care, Your Say" provided an opportunity to hear the views of the public of the priorities for their local health and social care services.

South East Coastal Strategic Health Association: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been employed by South East Coastal Strategic Health Association and its successor organisations in each of the last five years. [145830]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is listed in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA) as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
South East Coast SHA	571	396	235	243	344
Kent and Medway SHA	238	92	96	102	[1]—
Surrey and Sussex SHA	333	304	139	141	[1]—

[1] Not applicable.

Note:
The South East Coast Strategic Health Authority was created on 1 July 2006 from the merger of Surrey and Sussex SHA and Kent and Medway SHA. Figures prior to 2006 are an aggregate of the two predecessor organisations.

Sources:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Strokes: Research

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support her Department provides to charities involved in stroke research; and if she will make a statement. [145042]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Section 64 General Scheme of Grants to voluntary organisations is the Department's main funding source to voluntary organisations; however, the Department cannot award grants if the grant will support research as the Department supports research through the National Institute for Health Research.

Notwithstanding this fact, in recent years, the Department has supported a series of non-research stroke projects proposed by the Stroke Association. In the 2007-08 round the Department also approved stroke related projects by the Afiya Trust and Connect—the Communication Disability Network.

Organisation	Project	Funding period	Amount (£)
Connect—the Communication Disability Network	Enabling new connections	2007-08 to 2009-10	148,210
The Afiya Trust	Stroke Awareness for Black & Minority Ethnic Communities	2007-08 to 2009-10	138,300
The Stroke Association	Stroke is a Medical Emergency: Know the Warning Signs	2006-07 to 2008-09	88,000
The Stroke Association	Blood Pressure Awareness: African Caribbean Communities	2006-07 to 2008-09	117,500
The Stroke Association	Blood Pressure Awareness: Active Intervention	2006-07 to 2008-09	151,500
The Stroke Association	Stroke Prevention: South Asian Communities	[1]2004-05 to 2006-07	70,500

[1] Completed

The Department is working closely with voluntary organisations, including those listed in the previous table and others, in the development of the National Stroke Strategy.

The Department has also taken separate steps to support stroke research. The Department's National Institute for Health Research is investing £20 million over five years in the United Kingdom Stroke Research Network set up in 2005. The Network is supporting clinical trials and other well designed studies conducted by public and private sector funders.

More broadly, over the last ten years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Surgery

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of admitted pathways in *(a)* gastroenterology, *(b)* cardiology and *(c)* neurosurgery (i) at the university hospital of North Staffordshire and (ii) in England were completed. [145570]

Andy Burnham: The requested data is shown in the following table.

Referral to treatment (RTT) times for university hospital of North Staffordshire NHS trust and England, March 2007

	Admitted pathways—percentage completed within 18 weeks	
Treatment function	University hospital of North Staffordshire NHS trust	England (commissioner based)
Neurosurgery	18	39
Gastroenterology	22	76
Cardiology	39	61

Sussex Hospital: Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency patients were treated at the Sussex County Hospital in Brighton in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years; and how many of them were subsequently admitted to hospital. [145831]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect accident and emergency (A&E) attendance or admission data at individual hospital level. Information is available at trust level.

The information in the tables is for all types of A&E department. Published information is available only at quarterly intervals.

Attendances at and admissions via A&E departments at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals National Health Service Trust, 2006-07

Quarter	*A&E Attendances*	*Admissions via A&E*
Q1	32,820	5,833
Q2	33,464	5,512
Q3	30,768	5,774
Q4	31,215	6,031

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Attendances at and admissions via A&E departments at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	A&E Attendances	*Admissions via A&E*
2002-03	108,088	17,779
2003-04	112,695	17,721
2004-05	120,463	19,364
2005-06	124,386	20,073
2006-07	128,267	23,150

Note:
Latest available data are for Q4 2006-07. *Source:* Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the Sussex County hospital has been put on red alert in respect of patient influx in the last three years. [145832]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally. National health service organisations will have their own locally determined policy on how to provide health care in times of increased demand.

Tomography: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the £20 million extra capital expenditure on new position emission tomography and computed tomography facilities announced on 12 October 2005 to come on stream in clinical practice. [144771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect information on the number, location and operational status of positron emission tomography (PET) scanners or computed tomography (CT) scanners.

The £20 million additional capital expenditure is being made available to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in the financial years 2006-08, through the national health service bundle. It will be for SHAs to decide how best to use this money to meet the needs of its population for PET-CT services.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS care trusts in London have provided the BCG vaccination to all children following the July 2005 issue of the Chief Medical Officer's Directive on national BCG vaccinations; and what the incidence of tuberculosis was in each trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [145949]

Caroline Flint: On 6 July 2005 the Chief Medical Officer announced that the Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG) Vaccination programme would change to a targeted risk based programme. Data on the number of children offered BCG by primary care trust is not held centrally, although the number of children receiving BCG vaccine is collected by the Information Centre and published in the booklet NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2005-06, a copy of which is available in the Library.

The incidence rate of tuberculosis (TB) is collected by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The incidence rate for all London primary care trusts in 2005 is shown in the following table:

Primary care trust name	*Mean rate (per 100,000)**
Barking and Dagenham PCT	29
Barnet PCT	32
Bexley Care Trust	12
Brent Teaching PCT	91
Bromley PCT	10
Camden PCT	44
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	69
Croydon PCT	34
Ealing PCT	75
Enfield PCT	35
Greenwich Teaching PCT	36
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	42
Haringey Teaching PCT	61
Harrow PCT	55
Havering PCT	8
Hillingdon PCT	50
Hounslow PCT	60
Islington PCT	49
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	26
Kingston PCT	15
Lambeth PCT	53
Lewisham PCT	34
Newham PCT	100
Redbridge PCT	46
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	8
Southwark PCT	49
Sutton and Merton PCT	22
Tower Hamlets PCT	63
Waltham Forest PCT	47
Wandsworth PCT	38
Westminster PCT	39

Source:
Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance, Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates.

Vaccination

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the take-up was of *(a)* measles, mumps and rubella, *(b)* pneumococcal and *(c)* menc vaccines in each of the last five years; and what assessment she has made of the impact of the take-up rate of each on the incidence of preventable disease and death. [144435]

Caroline Flint: Information about the uptake of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and meningitis C vaccines, along with other childhood immunisations, is published annually in the Department's statistical bulletins. The latest bulletin, NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2005-06, has been placed in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/immunisation/immunisation-statistics-england-2005-2006.

Information on uptake of pneumococcal vaccine in children is not yet available.

The impact of vaccination on diseases has been immense. Before vaccination was introduced, there used to be over 500,000 cases of measles in some years. In recent years, the number of cases has been under 1,000. I would like to see the rise in MMR uptake to continue so that the number of cases of this serious but preventable disease decline significantly.

The impact of the pneumococcal vaccination programme is already being seen through disease surveillance carried out on our behalf by the Health Protection Agency. The number of cases of serious pneumococcal infection caused by the strains of bacteria that the vaccine protects against is already declining in young children.

The Meningitis C vaccination programme has been a great success, with the rates of the disease falling by over 97 per cent. in all age groups vaccinated.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the changes in funding for *(a)* the Opportunities for Volunteering fund and *(b)* section 64 grants. [145636]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Funding through the Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme (OFV) and the section 64 General Scheme of Grants has not changed. We are about to start a strategic funding and investment review into the Department's funding of the Third Sector. This will cover the Department's primary third sector funding streams—S64 and OFV—as well as contracts and grants across the range of departmental programmes.

The aim is to develop a framework for more coherent investment in the sector by the Department that transforms current piecemeal arrangements into a strategic portfolio of investments to support the Department in meeting its objectives more effectively. This will include examination of the potential for reforming the OFV scheme following its 25 years of operation.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been spent on preparing West Sussex primary care trust's Fit for the Future consultation exercise; and how much more is budgeted. [145828]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally. Any proposals for major service change are a matter for the national health service locally.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is for West Sussex Primary Care Trust in the current year; and what its anticipated budget is in each of the next two years. [145835]

Caroline Flint: West Sussex Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) received revenue allocations of £952.5 million in 2006-07 and £1,034.0 million in 2007-08. These represent a cash increase of £155.4 million or 17.7 per cent. over the two years, compared with a national average of 19.5 per cent. West Sussex Teaching PCT will be 2.4 per cent. over target by 2007-08.

Revenue allocations post 2007-08 have not yet been determined.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been employed by West Sussex Primary Care Trust and its predecessor organisations in each of the last five years expressed as *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount. [145836]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is provided in the following table:

All national health service staff, by main staff group, for specified organisations, as at 30 September 2002-06

Number (headcount)

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total specified organisations		4,374	4,619	5,244	5,448	5,676
	HCHS medical and staff[1]	34	33	34	35	35
	HCHS non-medical staff	2,174	2,294	2,950	3,078	3,222
	General medical practitioners (GMPs)	505	537	553	582	569
	GP practice staff	1,661	1,755	1,707	1,753	1,850
5L8	Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff[1]	4	3	3	3	n/a
	HCHS non-medical staff	786	781	1,218	1,313	n/a

All national health service staff, by main staff group, for specified organisations, as at 30 September 2002-06

						Number (headcount)
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	GMPs	134	146	155	159	n/a
	GP practice staff	530	530	530	474	n/a
5MA	Crawley PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff	8	10	4	4	n/a
	HCHS non-medical staff	161	189	244	265	n/a
	GMPs	74	78	78	84	n/a
	GP practice staff	212	209	209	209	n/a
5MC	Horsham and Chanctonbury PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff[1]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	n/a
	HCHS non-medical staff	143	233	287	272	n/a
	GMPs	59	59	79	82	n/a
	GP practice staff	199	190	248	424	n/a
5FK	Mid-Sussex PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff	19	15	19	22	n/a
	HCHS non-medical staff	312	384	419	482	n/a
	GMPs	95	97	97	109	n/a
	GP practice staff	249	351	356	356	n/a
5L9	Western Sussex PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff	3	5	8	6	n/a
	HCHS non-medical staff	772	707	782	746	n/a
	GMPs	143	157	144	148	n/a
	GP practice staff	471	475	364	290	n/a
5P6	West Sussex PCT					
	HCHS medical and staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35
	HCHS non-medical staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,222
	GMPs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	569
	GP practice staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,850

n/a = Data not available.
[1] Excludes Hospital Medical Hospital Practitioners and Hospital Medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] Zero.
Source:
The Information Centre, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics, Medical and Dental Workforce Census, Non-medical Workforce Census

Written Questions

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer question 139039, tabled on 21 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Bournemouth East, on Bournemouth hospital's accident and emergency department. [144760]

Andy Burnham: A reply was given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1628W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each year since their introduction in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England. [143943]

Mr. Coaker: The available information (up to 31 December 2005, latest available) is given in the table. The first table shows the number of orders issued (by year and by area) and the second the number of breach convictions (by area and by year). It is of course possible that an order recorded as having been breached in, say, 2004 could have been issued in 2003, and therefore the two tables are not directly comparable.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999 to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	April 1999 to May 2000	June 2000 to December 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Bedfordshire	82	0	0	4	4	16	18	40
Cambridgeshire	101	5	1	2	2	15	26	50
Essex	149	0	0	0	2	16	59	72
Hertfordshire	146	1	1	9	6	17	40	72
Norfolk	123	6	0	12	9	7	43	46
Suffolk	168	3	0	4	5	25	78	53
England	9,431	104	135	344	414	1,272	3,317	3,845

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Persons proven in court to have breached their ASBO In Each CJS area[1] and year[2] from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005

CJS area	2000-02[3]	2003	2004	2005
Bedfordshire	5	9	9	22
Cambridgeshire	5	8	14	22
Essex	1	2	29	70
Hertfordshire	4	7	24	37
Norfolk	10	5	14	31
Suffolk	2	9	24	50
England	378	685	1,799	3,243

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table on area of breach.
[2] It is possible for an individual to breach their ASBO in more than one year, so persons may be counted more than once in this table.
[3] From 1 June 2000.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1059W, on antisocial behaviour orders: custodial treatment, how many breaches of anti-social behaviour orders occurred in 2005; and how many ended in custodial detention. [130727]

Mr. Coaker: In England and Wales during 2005, there were 7,556 occasions where breach of an ASBO was proven in court. A custodial sentence was given on 3,440 of those occasions.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Mentally Ill

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on antisocial behaviour orders imposed on children and young people with *(a)* mental health problems and *(b)* other special needs. [144773]

Mr. Coaker: We have received no such representations. We have regular discussions with interested parties including those that represent children's interests. For example we worked with a wide range of stakeholders on revising our guidance on antisocial behaviour orders for practitioners which includes information on vulnerable people who commit antisocial behaviour. We monitor the overall use of ASBOs on an ongoing basis and adjust policy in response. We will continue to build on that and extend existing ASBO legislation as appropriate. For example, we announced that we would be seeking to put on a statutory footing the existing good practice, as set out in our comprehensive guidance, that juveniles' ASBOs should be reviewed after one year.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many failed asylum seekers resident in the UK the Immigration Service does not have a valid current address. [125956]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case. On 7 March the Border and Immigration Agency published its enforcement strategy 'Enforcing the Rules' available to view at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/ourplans/enforcementstrategy.

This strategy sets out clear objectives and measures to tackle and identify, amongst others, those individuals who have been refused asylum and not removed and re-enforces the Border and Immigration Agency's commitment to ensuring and enforcing compliance with our immigrations laws.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to reimburse local authorities for the cost of providing housing and other forms of support for asylum seekers who have exhausted all avenues of appeal waiting for deportation. [110845]

Mr. Byrne: Asylum seekers whose claims are unsuccessful are required to leave the UK. However destitute unsuccessful asylum seeking families with minor dependants normally continue to receive support under section 95 of the Immigration and

Asylum Act 1999 from the Border and Immigration Agency. Other destitute unsuccessful asylum applicants who meet the eligibility criteria may be supported by the Agency under section 4 of the 1999 Act.

Local authorities may in some circumstances have a responsibility to provide support, including accommodation, to unsuccessful asylum seekers under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948. Support may also be necessary under the Children Act 1989. This may include ongoing support for those leaving care. Eligibility for support under these provisions is subject to the application of the provisions of schedule 3 to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

Local authorities receive funding from central Government towards their revenue expenditure on social services and education. Local authorities also receive funding from DfES for those leaving care. There is no additional payment made in respect of failed asylum seekers.

The Home Office has agreed to establish a working group to discuss a wide range of issues raised by local authorities in respect of asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers, including the costs of supporting those who are destitute but are not supported directly by the Home Office.

Asylum: Deportation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been deported to countries which have not signed the UN Convention against Torture 1988 during the last 12 months, broken down by country. [129795]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The table shows the number of principal asylum applicants removed from the UK in 2006 as a result of enforcement action, to countries which have not signed the UN Convention against Torture (1984). A number of countries have ratified the Convention, but have not formally signed it. Removals to these countries have been included in the table.

Voluntary departures are included in figures on removals and therefore it is not possible to say at what stage in the asylum process people are removed, since those departing voluntarily can leave the UK at any time.

The UK looks at all asylum claims, and claims relating to torture on their individual merits and with anxious scrutiny. We take into account the individual's circumstances, the circumstances in the country to which they would be removed and any other relevant information, including, where relevant, any undertakings given by that country. We would not return any individual to a country where it was considered that there was a real risk that he/she would be tortured or made to suffer inhuman or degrading treatment. The decision to remove anyone who claims to fear torture is subject to the right of appeal to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, or, where applicable, to the Special Immigration Appeals Commission, and from there to the higher courts.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals and voluntary departures, excluding Assisted Voluntary Returns[1,2], of asylum applicants[3], excluding dependants, to countries who have not signed the UN Convention against Torture[4], in 2006[5,10]

Destination[6]	*2006*
Albania	955
Macedonia	15
Moldova	40
Romania	240
Serbia and Montenegro	655
EU Accession States[7]	110
Other Former USSR[8]	90
Europe other[9]	65
Europe total	2,160
Jamaica	345
Americas other[9]	20
Americas total	365
Angola	25
Burundi	5
Cameroon	25
Congo	40
Dem. Rep. Congo	80
Eritrea	*
Ethiopia	50
Ivory Coast	20
Kenya	90
Liberia	10
Rwanda	5
Somalia	10
Tanzania	45
Uganda	180
Zimbabwe	45
Africa other[9]	100
Africa total	725
Iran	145
Iraq	65
Libya	25
Syria	35
Middle East other[9]	165
Middle East total	435
Bangladesh	230
Pakistan	750
Sri Lanka	385
Vietnam	95
Asia other[9]	345
Asia total	1,795
Total principal applicants removed[5]	5,485

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing 'Voluntarily' following enforcement action initiated against them and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Excludes Assisted Voluntary Returns.

[3] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, excluding dependants.

[4] Some countries have ratified the CAT, but not signed it. These countries have been included in these figures.

[5] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with * = 1 or 2.

[6] Excludes persons where the recorded destination is unknown.

[7] Includes Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. Excludes Cyprus, Hungary and Poland.

[8] Includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Krygyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Excludes Belarus.

[9] Includes only those countries who have not signed the CAT and not all other countries in the relevant continent.

[10] Provisional figures.

Asylum: English Language

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to assist asylum seekers who have no access to English language learning to manage everyday tasks. [127897]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency provides assistance, support and funding to asylum seekers throughout the asylum process. The application is managed by a single case owner who explains how the asylum process works, is responsible for any support issues, is the single point of contact at any stage during the claim, and who provides information about how to seek access to legal representatives. An interpreter will be provided, if required, at each key event—the screening interview, the first reporting event, the asylum interview and the decision service event.

Key voluntary sector partners are funded by the Border and Immigration Agency to provide a national network of One Stop Services where provision of advice and support is given to asylum seekers, wherever possible in their own language. This is in addition to separate information, given in a language that is understood, which accommodation providers relay to asylum seekers about the property and the locality in which they live, and about how to access statutory and non-statutory services, including the voluntary sector.

Asylum: Expenditure

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent in the last 12 months on *(a)* specialist support systems, *(b)* appropriate (section 20) accommodation and support and *(c)* culturally sensitive counselling services for (i) asylum-seeking children and (ii) asylum-seeking children who have had experiences of torture, political violence or been victims of trafficking and other forms of persecution. [140612]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Home Office does not collate expenditure for the different items listed and does not keep separate expenditure data for asylum-seeking children and asylum-seeking children who have had experiences of torture, political violence or who have been victims of trafficking and other forms of persecution.

Dependent children within asylum-seeking families are provided with support in the form of accommodation and the payment of cash for subsistence.

Responsibility for providing support to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) rests with local authorities which provide an appropriate range of services according to their assessment of the needs of individual children. The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) reimburse local authorities for most of these costs through the UASC expenditure grant. In the financial year 2005-06, the most recent year for which audited accounts are available, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) paid local authorities £151 million in UASC grants.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accommodation centres have been set up under section 16 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143605]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Section 16 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provided for the establishment of accommodation centres. None have been established and we have no plans do so.

Bicycles: Theft

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how bicycle thefts were reported in each police authority in each of the last five years. [145443]

Mr. McNulty: The available data relate to offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police and are given in the following table:

Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police

Number

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	3,555	3,090	3,043	3,713	4,131
Bedfordshire	870	719	898	881	1,073
British Transport Police[1]	—	2,737	2,947	3,384	4,121
Cambridgeshire	4,171	3,975	4,374	4,528	4,442
Cheshire	1,666	1,551	1,746	1,565	1,731
Cleveland	1,460	1,028	1,116	1,237	1,255
Cumbria	691	606	802	850	866
Derbyshire	1,505	1,301	1,358	1,131	1,156
Devon and Cornwall	1,563	1,443	1,712	1,825	1,792
Dorset	1,522	1,624	1,843	1,602	1,555
Durham	867	726	827	815	802
Dyfed-Powys	268	230	330	388	308
Essex	2,299	2,100	2,462	2,775	2,875
Gloucestershire	1,691	1,588	1,653	1,322	1,577
Greater Manchester	5,007	4,598	4,220	4,198	4,731
Gwent	557	632	624	570	600
Hampshire	4,455	4,253	4,545	4,869	5,843
Hertfordshire	1,339	1,397	1,484	1,656	1,767
Humberside	4,330	3,736	3,777	3,195	3,281
Kent	1,821	1,609	1,829	2,020	1,884
Lancashire	2,702	2,505	2,525	2,594	2,694
Leicestershire	2,132	1,754	1,869	1,879	1,893
Lincolnshire	1,750	1,810	1,623	1,766	1,743
London, City of	334	427	355	319	336
Merseyside	1,678	1,445	1,569	1,673	1,726
Metropolitan Police	14,340	15,812	19,261	19,317	21,238
Norfolk	1,926	1,888	2,108	1,972	2,019
Northamptonshire	1,146	1,053	1,157	1,318	1,152
Northumbria	2,468	2,387	2,644	2,405	2,362
North Wales	896	850	783	773	618
North Yorkshire	2,442	2,331	2,563	1,989	2,049
Nottinghamshire	3,555	2,608	2,744	2,599	2,876
South Wales	1,951	1,717	1,822	1,978	1,762

Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Number 2005-06
South Yorkshire	1,891	1,787	1,346	1,421	1,725
Staffordshire	1,667	1,235	1,285	1,232	1,270
Suffolk	1,728	1,439	1,457	1,653	1,828
Surrey	1,301	1,085	1,297	1,331	1,463
Sussex	2,959	2,329	2,683	2,811	3,165
Thames Valley	5,346	5,264	5,547	5,879	5,994
Warwickshire	1,060	1,001	1,076	878	1,005
West Mercia	1,903	1,484	1,559	1,596	1,592
West Midlands	4,004	3,301	3,229	2,908	3,132
West Yorkshire	2,673	2,250	2,374	2,175	2,521
Wiltshire	1,224	1,050	1,001	1,074	1,253
England and Wales	102,713	97,755	105,467	106,064	113,206

[1] British Transport Police data have been included in the England and Wales totals from 2002-03.

Borders and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average time was taken for the transfer of files between the Borders and Immigration Agency casework unit and correspondence unit in the last 12 months. [144555]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Applications

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been made to retake the Knowledge of Life in the UK test due to test centres not administering the test correctly. [141598]

John Reid: The information requested could be obtained only by detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 April 2007, Question 130039, on the Life in the UK test, what the average test results were of *(a)* the British citizens participating in the test pilot and *(b)* the pilot group as a whole. [133330]

John Reid: The Department used an independent contractor, Ufi, to conduct the pilot tests. Ufi have indicated that in respect of the pilot group as a whole, 73 per cent. of the 245 candidates who completed pilot tests achieved a pass.

In seeking to establish the information requested on the average test results for British citizens, I can also provide further clarification to the hon. Gentleman about the figure of 25 per cent. given for British citizens participating in the pilot test given in my previous answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 470W. This figure of 25 per cent. referred to a benchmark figure of how many native speakers of English (of which British Citizens could be included) the Department asked Ufi to take part in the pilot scheme and not the nationality of participants.

Although the information collected cannot be broken down by nationality, this does not affect the usefulness of the pilot to developing the test proper. The test is not designed to compare whether citizens and non-citizens are achieving similar results and nor was the pilot conducted in that spirit.

British Nationality: Eligibility

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what offences and behaviours are considered to be not conducive to the public good, leading to deprivation of citizenship under section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143601]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* As was explained to Parliament during passage of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill, deprivation of citizenship might be considered appropriate in cases involving national security (including espionage), war crimes; serious and organised crime; and unacceptable behaviours such as glorification of terrorism.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deprived of citizenship under section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143602]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* None so far. One person has been deprived and one case is in train under the powers which preceded section 56.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been given penalties under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143603]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which replaces section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, has yet to be commenced. This part of the Act is currently the subject of a public consultation which was launched on 15 May 2007. Following this, and subject to the responses, the proposals are due to be implemented by the end of this year.

Crime: Firearms

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* confiscations of firearms and *(b)* convictions for the illegal possession of firearms there were in each police authority area in each of the last eight years. [139507]

Mr. Coaker: On *(a)*, this data is not collected centrally.

On *(b)*, data from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants convicted at all courts for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in

England and Wales, broken down by police force area and for the years between 1998 to 2005, is shown in the following table.

Number of defendants convicted at all courts for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, broken down by police force area and for the years between 1998 and 2005[1,2,3,4]

Force	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	32	6	9	27	15	20	18	25
Bedfordshire	8	2	2	5	10	9	7	6
Cambridgeshire	17	8	9	1	5	12	4	3
Cheshire	5	8	4	5	6	4	20	11
City of London	4	1	1	0	4	2	5	0
Cleveland	12	7	8	5	6	11	11	13
Cumbria	7	2	4	4	1	4	8	8
Derbyshire	6	13	12	5	14	6	15	17
Devon and Cornwall	13	10	8	10	13	16	15	12
Dorset	2	2	4	7	5	8	7	8
Durham	6	9	9	6	5	12	11	14
Essex	37	22	22	15	25	18	29	22
Gloucestershire	6	5	6	5	3	9	6	6
Greater Manchester	100	57	55	57	51	55	115	108
Hampshire	18	18	15	9	21	16	15	28
Hertfordshire	9	8	8	10	5	5	16	23
Humberside	5	5	7	8	9	9	14	17
Kent	20	11	22	29	18	22	18	17
Lancashire	32	12	19	17	11	15	22	27
Leicestershire	29	15	26	20	13	16	17	17
Lincolnshire	6	10	13	4	2	5	6	6
Merseyside	31	20	14	18	19	25	54	68
Metropolitan Police	270	221	173	224	257	297	268	302
Norfolk	8	7	6	4	5	2	12	9
North Yorkshire	11	7	7	3	1	6	3	3
Northamptonshire	6	11	4	4	5	4	4	7
Northumbria	43	43	32	40	26	45	38	38
Nottinghamshire	20	12	16	16	12	28	23	27
South Yorkshire	24	22	19	11	17	21	23	27
Staffordshire	8	7	0	6	16	8	15	13
Suffolk	2	4	8	5	4	7	7	6
Surrey	5	4	7	7	8	6	7	4
Sussex	10	8	4	11	9	14	18	21
Thames Valley	30	23	15	11	16	20	24	22
Warwickshire	5	5	4	3	7	4	7	6
West Mercia	6	11	5	7	7	5	11	6
West Midlands	92	87	74	71	79	66	72	69
West Yorkshire	72	55	36	33	38	33	52	51
Wiltshire	7	5	6	8	6	4	6	10
Dyfed-Powys	5	2	7	3	3	5	4	4
Gwent	2	4	8	5	4	4	6	4
North Wales	4	7	1	1	3	3	7	5
South Wales	9	16	11	17	11	18	21	24
Total	1,044	812	720	757	795	899	1,061	1,108

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes and offences:
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1)(b) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec. 288
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec. 288
Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec. 288
Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Our ref: IOS 239-07
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Crimes of Violence: West Mercia Police

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of so-called honour *(a)* attempted murders, *(b)* other acts of violence and *(c)* forced imprisonment have been reported to his Department by the West Mercia Police in the last 12 months. [144226]

Mr. Coaker: In terms of the recorded crime statistics, there is no requirement for any police force to notify the Home Office of 'honour' crimes. It is the offence as defined by law which will be recorded by the police and reported to the Home Office e.g. serious wounding, common assault, etc. Details of the circumstances for individual offences are not collected centrally.

Deepcut Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he was informed that Devon and Cornwall police were of the view that Surrey police should have held a murder inquiry only into the deaths at Deepcut Army Barracks; and if he will make a statement; [143276]

(2) if he will request that a murder inquiry be opened into the deaths of Army recruits at Deepcut Barracks; and if he will make a statement; [143400]

(3) if he will require the publication of the report by Devon and Cornwall police into Surrey police's handling of the investigations of the deaths at Deepcut Army Barracks; and if he will make a statement. [143401]

Mr. McNulty: The report by Devon and Cornwall police was prepared at the request of the chief constable of Surrey police. It is for the chief constable to decide whether to publish the report.

The decision on whether to treat an incident as a possible criminal matter is an operational issue for the police and Ministers have no role in the decision making process.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights were. [144942]

Mr. Byrne: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: DVD

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which DVDs have been produced by his Department in the last 12 months; how many copies of such DVDs were produced; and what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* development, *(b)* production and *(c)* distribution of each DVD. [144562]

Mr. Byrne: DVDs are one of a wide range of communication approaches used by the Department. They are only produced if considered the most appropriate vehicle for communicating a particular message or range of information to the audience.

Information on the number of DVDs produced by the Department is not held centrally.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144941]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office policy on the procurement of energy saving light bulbs is to meet the minimum environmental standards outlined in the guidance provided in the Office for Government Commerce Buying Solutions' 'Quick Wins 2007' framework. There is no requirement to monitor the number of energy saving light bulbs purchased. This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143881]

Mr. Byrne: Information about the number of individuals working from home is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Home working is one of the flexible working options available to Home Office staff, but there is no entitlement to it. All members of staff are able to apply to work flexibly, including working at home. Applications are subject to local management agreement, based on a number of factors including the particular circumstances of the request and the business and operational needs of the department.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [135695]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is provided in the following table:

£ million

Business area	*Contract*	*Original estimate of cost*	*Most recent estimate of cost*	*Outturn Cost*
NOMS	OMNI (Steria)	250	250	[1]250
IND	TBC (Atos Origin)	200	200	[1]200
IND	Mycroft (SERCO)	42	42	[1]42
IND	Semaphore (IBM)[2]	30	37.16	45.7
Corporate Services	EDRM (CapGemini/ Sirius)	16.5	16.8	8.9

[1] Forecast.

[2] The approved budget for Semaphore was increased in March 2006 in response to terrorist attacks in the UK in July 2005, and to the requirement from the Home Secretary to extend e-Borders data capability.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in his Department in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [144756]

Mr. Byrne: The Information requested is contained in the Home Office Annual Report(s) 2006-07 and 2004-05 respectively which are available in the Library of the House and on line at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/annual-report-06.pdf?view=Binary (Page 119)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/annual-report-0405/annrep2005-0-complete?view=Binary (Page 131)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/annrep2003.pdf?version=1 (Page 174)

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what promotional items bearing his Department's name or logo or other branding have been procured in each of the last five years; at what cost, broken down by item; and how many units of each item were purchased over that period. [141383]

Mr. Byrne: There is no central record of procured promotional items bearing the Department's name or logo or other branding. To manually examine files across all areas of the Department for specific procured items in each of the last five years would incur disproportionate cost, however, the total expenditure for promotional material for the financial year 2006-07 was £110,000 and for 2005-06 £101,000. Expenditure information for these two years is available following the implementation of the Department's Adelphi Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system Accounts Payable Module.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141986]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W.

Departments: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the current rate of employer contribution is to each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility; what the revenue impact would be of capping the employer contribution to each such scheme at 14 per cent. and if he will make a statement. [144297]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has policy responsibility for police pensions. The employer contribution rate is 24.6 per cent. of an officer's pensionable pay. This rate is common to members of the 1987 Police Pension Scheme and the 2006 Police Pension Scheme and applies across all forces and ranks.

It would involve disproportionate costs to calculate the complex effects of capping the employer contribution rate at 14 per cent.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public consultations his Department has undertaken in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145278]

Mr. Byrne: Over the 12 months to end May 2007, the Home Office launched 20 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years; [139426]

(2) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139437]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office uses the Central Office of Information's (COI) framework of agencies to work on advertising campaigns.

Under the terms of the COI framework agreements, advertising agencies are contracted to supply advertising services only, i.e., creative products based on a communications strategy. Advertising agencies on COI's roster do not supply broader consultancy services. On occasion wider ranging consultancy projects may inform campaign work but the costs would not be attributed to the campaign.

The amount spent on PR to support individual campaigns and ensure broader reach of our target audiences is in the following table.

Amount spent on PR to support individual campaigns and ensure broader reach of our target audiences

	£
2002-03	
Drugs Misuse	79,219
Criminal Justice	36,900
Mobile Phone Safety	44,190
Child Protection on the Internet	97,175
2003-04	
Holocaust Memorial Day	44,142
Security Industry Authority	150,573
Domestic Violence	75,000
Sexual Offences Act	56,465
Citizenship	650,729
2004-05	
Mobile Phone Safety	44,190
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	260,373.99
Anti Social Behaviour	646,570
Sexual Offences Act	128,359
Criminal Justice	982,410
Domestic Violence	75,000
Year of the Volunteer	210,789.95
Police—High Potential Development	62,760
Alcohol and Violent Crime	501,692
Drugs	71,239
Communities	18,412
Familial Homicide	4,940
Holocaust Memorial Day	30,586
2005-06	
Antisocial Behaviour	363,040
Criminal Justice	265,780
Year of the Volunteer	74,027
Police—High Potential Development	41,400
Community Support Officers Recruitment	2,380
Tackling Violent Crime	156,620
Drugs	474,386

Amount spent on PR to support individual campaigns and ensure broader reach of our target audiences

	£
2006-07	
Criminal Justice	174,473
Community Sentences	193,181
Drugs	374,666
Single Non Emergency Number Pilots	29,186
Community Support Officers Recruitment	113,511
Police—High Potential Development	28,716
Respect	61,368

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140027]

Mr. Byrne: The Department maintains records of expenditure on agency and temporary staff. It does not maintain separate records of fees paid to recruitment agencies. To provide such detailed information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's expenditure on communications research was in each year since 1997-98; and how much of this cost was accounted for by producing *(a)* reports on the public perceptions of his Department or its agencies, *(b)* stakeholder surveys, *(c)* national media evaluations, *(d)* regional media evaluations and *(e)* other research. [136993]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is given the table.

For the years for which consistent records are available, expenditure on communications research is as follows:

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Public perception	—	33,723.00	84,298.00	224,843.00	273,121.00	225,276.00
Stakeholder	8,510.00	337,307.99	384,727.67	306,134.61	244,900.00	111,980.00
National media	—	—	—	74,680.00	176,348.65	306,726.33
Regional media	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	1,018,283.49	1,002,007.08	1,674,796.81	1,598,866.33	1,395,833.93	1,726,880.41
Total	1,026,793.49	1,373,038.07	2,143,822.48	2,204,523.94	2,090,203.58	2,370,862.74

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126803]

John Reid: The following table shows the number of applications for a 'Work Permit' where the employer was recorded as either 'The Home Office' or one of its agencies, namely: the Criminal Records Bureau, the Identity and Passport Service and HM Prison Service. It is not viable to identify any applications where the employer name was not recorded in this way.

The figures do not include applications from Independent Inspectorates and Ombudsmen or non-departmental public bodies.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Work Permit applications

	Home Office	*Home Office agencies*
2002	2	22
2003	5	24
2004	1	16
2005	0	11
2006	4	9

Deportation: Afghanistan

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose asylum claims have failed are awaiting deportation to Afghanistan. [142274]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case. The Home Secretary has set a clear goal of reintroducing systems to count everyone in and out of Britain.

Detainees

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department embassy officials from which countries have met asylum seekers detained in the UK in the last 12 months. [141405]

John Reid: Certain countries have specific arrangements with the Border and Immigration Agency to interview individuals, for the purpose of agreeing to issue an Emergency Travel Document if nationality cannot be confirmed by other means. We do hold the information requested but agreements between the Home Office and other countries are sensitive and disclosure could damage our relationship

with the country concerned, our relations with other states and prejudice our ability to operate an efficient removals system.

Countries where return is facilitated by documents other than an Emergency Travel Document may also request an interview to establish nationality. Data is not centrally collated on these cases and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Correspondence

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances correspondence between hon. and right hon. Members and detainees is opened by staff in immigration removal centres before it reaches recipients; and if he will make a statement. [144733]

Mr. Byrne: Correspondence between hon. and right hon. Members and detainees is not opened by staff in Immigration Removal Centres.

A situation may arise where the centre manager has reasonable cause to believe that the contents of an envelope may endanger the security of the centre or the safety of others. Under these circumstances the envelope may be opened in front of the detainee.

EC Accession

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will write to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West, as referred to in the answer of 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1646W, on accession countries. [104855]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 June 2007.

Edward Chininga

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanisms Edward Chininga was permitted to transit via Gatwick; whether officials were aware of his position on the EU no fly list for selected Zimbabwean nationals; at what point Ministers were made aware of his transiting; and if he will make a statement. [133087]

Mr. Byrne: I shall write separately to the hon. Member.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what consideration is given to service in the UK armed forces by non-UK nationals when deciding who is eligible to reside in the UK; [141396]

(2) under what criteria non-UK nationals can legally *(a)* reside and *(b)* work in the UK; [141397]

(3) what criteria are used to measure whether an individual has strong ties with the UK when considering whether or not to allow that person to reside in the UK. [141398]

John Reid: The rules applying to applications for indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom by foreign and Commonwealth nationals discharged from HM Forces and by former Gurkhas who completed their service on or after 1 July 1997 are set out in paragraphs 276E to 276Q of the Immigration Rules. They include the requirement for a minimum of four years' service to have been completed prior to discharge. I would refer the hon. Member to the relevant policy contained on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/immigrationrules/part7

Discretion may be exercised for former members of HM Forces discharged from service before 1 July 1997 or discharged more than two years prior to the date of application where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. In such cases there is the same requirement for a minimum of four years' service to have been completed prior to discharge. The relevant guidance is contained in Chapter 15, Section 2A of the Immigration Directorate Instructions at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/idischapter15/

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued in each year since 2000; and how many of them were for *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* lecturers and *(d)* teachers for overseas nationals from (i) Africa, (ii) Asia, (iii) South America and (iv) the Caribbean. [144097]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals, in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 May 2007 from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia *(c)* South America and *(d)* The Caribbean.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

	Doctor	*Lecturer*	*Nurse*	*Teacher*	*Total*
2000					
Africa	[1]—	50	4,850	340	5,240
Asia	[1]—	160	8,110	80	8,345
South America	[1]—	15	35	5	60
Caribbean	[1]—	5	815	20	835
Total	[1]—	230	13,810	445	14,480
2001					
Africa	270	65	7,760	2,485	10,580
Asia	485	155	14,110	285	15,035
South America	[2]—	15	85	40	145
Caribbean	15	5	790	460	1,270
Total	770	240	22,745	8,265	27,025
2002					
Africa	1,070	80	10,275	3,380	14,805
Asia	1,130	210	16,045	535	17,920
South America	5	30	130	65	230
Caribbean	55	5	760	620	1,440
Total	2,260	325	27,210	4,600	34,395

	Doctor	Lecturer	Nurse	Teacher	Total
2003					
Africa	920	80	10,090	2,265	13,355
Asia	2,020	295	17,375	370	20,060
South America	5	30	170	50	250
Caribbean	50	5	580	595	1,235
Total	2,995	410	28,220	3,280	34,900
2004					
Africa	840	105	9,985	1,680	12,615
Asia	3,060	265	17,265	390	20,980
South America	5	30	310	35	380
Caribbean	65	10	570	420	1,060
Total	3,965	410	28,135	2,530	35,035
2005					
Africa	590	110	7,840	1,425	9,965
Asia	2,920	290	13,235	370	16,810
South America	5	35	235	60	340
Caribbean	50	10	530	350	940
Total	3,585	45	21,840	2,200	28,950
2006					
Africa	520	80	4,585	1,225	6,410
Asia	2,140	340	8,010	390	10,885
South America	5	30	185	40	260
Caribbean	40	10	305	310	665
Total	2,705	460	13,085	1,970	18,220
January to May 2007					
Africa	95	30	1,190	375	1,690
Asia	275	115	2,125	130	2,645
South America	[2]—	10	35	70	55
Caribbean	5	5	90	95	190
Total	380	165	3,440	610	4,585
Grand total					
Africa			74,660		
Asia			112,680		
South America			1,720		
Caribbean			7,650		
Total			196,685		

[1] Indicates 1 or 2.
[2] Indicates nil.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to end the domestic worker visa programme; and if he will make a statement. [125200]

Mr. Byrne: Under the points-based system, there will not be a separate route for overseas domestic workers in private households.

We intend, however, to make provision for "domestic assistants" under revised arrangements for business visitors, in the latter part of next year. Before doing so, we are undertaking some research to better understand the ways in which victims of trafficking and exploitation entered the UK, especially to understand the risks associated with those entering as domestic workers. On the back of this research we will consult publicly on the business visitor arrangements and the safeguards around them.

Fixated Threat Assessment Centre

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what criteria the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre use to decide whom to investigate; [143132]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* detained, *(b)* sectioned and *(c)* investigated by the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre; [143141]

(3) what the *(a)* names and *(b)* job descriptions are of the employees of the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre; [143142]

(4) who authorised the establishment of the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre. [143033]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 15 June 2007]:* The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) was established in order to better protect the public and vulnerable individuals in response to evidence that a significant proportion of people who engage in bizarre communications or contact with prominent people in public life are severely and acutely mentally ill and urgently need professional help. A small but significant number of such individuals can pose a risk to the public, the prominent person, and themselves, particularly in environments where there are armed police officers. The Home Office, the Department of Health and the Metropolitan Police Service agreed to establish a joint police/mental health unit, on a pilot basis, to assess and manage the risk posed by such individuals. Where appropriate, FTAC will introduce (or reintroduce) the individuals into existing community mental health care through established pathways. If offences are disclosed, and the circumstances warrant such intervention, consideration will also be given to a criminal investigation.

Since its creation in October 2006, FTAC has dealt with 168 cases. FTAC does not detain people in psychiatric hospitals. When it encounters an individual in need of mental health care it alerts their general practitioners and psychiatrists, who then provide appropriate help under existing legislation. FTAC may make use of police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to take a person who appears to be suffering from mental disorder, and in immediate need of care or control, to a place of safety. When people are removed to hospital under section 136, they are examined by a registered medical practitioner and interviewed by an approved social worker, not associated with FTAC, in order to make any necessary arrangements for their treatment or care. To date, FTAC personnel have used this power on nine occasions.

The remainder of the information sought by the hon. Gentleman relates to operational matters which are the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Service. I have

asked the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service to write to the hon. Gentleman to provide him with this information.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals have been detained by the Fixed Threat Assessment Centre since its inception, broken down by *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnic origin; what the (i) average and (ii) maximum length of detention has been; and how many are currently detained; [141343]

(2) what safeguards are in place to ensure that individuals detained as a result of actions by the Fixed Threat Assessment Centre are only detained under the appropriate legislation; [141344]

(3) what reasons underlay the decision to establish the Fixed Threat Assessment Centre; who decided it should be established; how many *(a)* police officers, broken down by rank, *(b)* psychiatrists and *(c)* psychologists are assigned to the centre; and if he will make a statement. [141345]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 11 June 2007]:* The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) was established in order to better protect the public and vulnerable individuals in response to evidence that a significant proportion of people who engage in bizarre communications or contact with prominent people in public life are severely and acutely mentally ill and urgently need professional help. A small but significant number of such individuals can pose a risk to the public, the prominent person and themselves, particularly in environments where there are armed police officers. The Home Office, the Department of Health and the Metropolitan Police Service agreed to establish a joint police/mental health unit, on a pilot basis, to assess and manage the risk posed by such individuals. Where appropriate, FTAC will introduce (or re-introduce) the individuals into existing community mental health care through established pathways. If offences are disclosed, and the circumstances warrant such intervention, consideration will also be given to a criminal investigation.

FTAC is comprised of nine police officers (one chief inspector, one inspector, one sergeant and six police constables) and five mental health professionals (three full-time community psychiatric nurses, a half-time forensic psychiatrist and a half-time forensic psychologist).

FTAC does not detain people in psychiatric hospitals. When it encounters an individual in need of mental health care it alerts their general practitioners and psychiatrists, who then provide appropriate help under existing legislation. FTAC may make use of police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to take a person who appears to be suffering from mental disorder, and in immediate need of care or control, to a place of safety. When people are removed to hospital under section 136, they are examined by a registered medical practitioner and interviewed by an approved social worker, not associated with FTAC, in order to make any necessary arrangements for their treatment or care. To date, FTAC personnel have used this power on nine occasions (comprising six white, north European males, one white, south European male, two white, north European females).

Foreigners: Health Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that visitors to the UK from *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside the EU have health insurance for the duration of their stay. [144523]

Mr. Byrne: Visitors from the EU, other EEA countries and Switzerland are covered by EU regulations whereby member states reimburse each other for medical treatment for which the need arises during a visit to another member state. In addition, the UK has similar bilateral healthcare arrangements with a number of non-EEA countries.

Overseas visitors not covered by these arrangements are not entitled to free NHS hospital treatment unless they or the treatment received are exempt from charges under the provisions of the NHS regulations. Overseas visitors managers in hospitals check a patient's eligibility for free treatment and apply charges if appropriate.

People who are not entitled to free treatment are therefore advised to take out appropriate health insurance before visiting the UK but this is not compulsory. However, if an immigration officer has reason to believe that a passenger is seeking entry with the intention of seeking NHS treatment to which he or she is not entitled, entry may be refused.

The cross-Government strategy Enforcing the Rules: a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws published on 7 March commits to reviewing the rules on access to the NHS by foreign nationals, and to running a pilot in three NHS trusts with a view to improving the collection of revenue from those who are not entitled to free treatment.

Gurkhas

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on Government policy on UK residency for former Gurkhas. [140708]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* The rules applying to applications for indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom by former Gurkhas who completed their service on or after 1 July 1997 are set out in paragraphs 276E to 276K of the Immigration Rules. I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the relevant policy contained on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/immigrationrules/part7

Discretion may be exercised for Gurkhas discharged from service before 1 July 1997, and who are not covered by the Immigration Rules, where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. This guidance is contained in Chapter 15, Section 2A of the Immigration Directorate Instructions at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/idischapter15/

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of abuse of the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme he identified prior to the changes to the Programme. [117781]

John Reid: The reason for recent changes to the new verification policy in the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme is to strengthen the grounds on which we can refuse applications where there is a strong case to indicate that they are not genuine. The new Immigration Rules provide the Border and Immigration Agency with the legal basis to refuse applications under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme to tackle particular instances of abuse. Namely, they allow us to:

Refuse an application if a non-genuine document has been submitted including in circumstances where that document was not material to the outcome of the application.

Refuse an application if we have reasonable doubts about a document and our verification checks have not been able to show whether or not the document is genuine.

We have still been able to refuse most applications in the past where forged documents were submitted.

HSMP has been a robust scheme, but we are tightening it up even further in line with our aim of cutting down on abuse within the migration system.

Identity Cards

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 390-2W, on identity cards, what the value was of each contract; what other contracts his Department has signed with external organisations on the *(a)* identity cards project and *(b)* National Identity Register; and what the value was of each additional contract. [104624]

John Reid: The following table details the external organisations to which the Home Office Identity Cards Programme let contracts or made payments between the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Company	*2004-05*	£ *2005-06*
Sirius consortium (Fujitsu Services Ltd and Global Crossing Ltd and PWC)	184,000	—
SchlumbergerSema (Atos Origin)	56,000	—
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd	1,079,000	—
Shreeveport Management Consultancy	43,000	—
Axon Group Plc	29,000	—
Cornwell Management Consultants plc	48,000	—
PA Consulting (and within this contract, Electronic Commerce Associates Ltd.)	7,710,000	20,690,000
CESG Communications Electronic Security Group	7,000	133,000
Partnerships UK	24,000	69,000
Field Fisher Waterhouse	309,000	862,000
Office of Government Commerce	12,000	—
Interleader Ltd	—	2,000
Veredus London	—	135,000
The Metropolitan Police	—	35,000
KPMG	—	90,000
Ernst and Young	—	111,000
Sigma	—	37,000
Abbey Consulting	—	4,000
Whitehead Mann Ltd	—	17,000
Alan Hughes	—	16,000
Excel Recruitment	—	20,000

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects.

Equally, contracts with external organisations are signed on the basis of providing services to project or activities which can apply to both existing passport operational business as well as the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and future improvements. As a result, a breakdown of payments made to such organisations for the purposes of the development of identity cards or the National Identity Register in the financial year 2006-07 cannot be provided.

However, the following provides a list of external organisations from which the Identity and Passport Service has obtained either consulting services and/or contracted staff in the financial year 2006-07 and the level of payment which has been attributed to the future development of both biometric passports, identity cards and associated improvements in that financial year. The list excludes payments attributed to organisations providing legal and professional services.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

Between £5 million and £10 million:

PA Consulting Group

Between £1 million and £5 million:

Capita Resourcing

Between £500,000 and £1 million:

Parity Resources

Glotel Technology Working

Between £50,000 and £500,000:

Adecco UK Ltd

Allen Lane

ASE Consulting Ltd

Capita Interim Management
CESG (Communications Electronics Security Group)
Chamberlain Beaumont
Computer People
Crystal UK Ltd
Elan Computing Ltd
Electronic Computer Associates (novated from PA Consulting contract)
Hays Accounting
Hedra Ltd
Hudson Global Resources Ltd
Kelly Services
KPMG
Logica CMC
Methods Consulting
Montpelier Contracting and Consulting
Northern Recruitment Group plc
OGC Accounting Service
Pendragon Information Systems
Real-Time Consultants plc
Ruillion Computer
Sand Resources
Search Total Recruitment Solutions
Security Printing Systems Ltd
Shreeveport Ltd
Spring Technology
TAG TPS Ltd
The Nesco Group
Veredus

Under £50,000:

Alan Hughes
Angela Mortimer plc
Anite Public Sector
Atos Origin IT Services Ltd
Beamans Ltd
British Print Industries Federation
Brook Street
Buchanan and Darby Associates
Business in the Community
Callcredit plc
CE Williams
Central Office of Information
Centre for Accessibility
Diane Bailey Associates
Donaldson's
Drivers Jonas
ER Consultants
Equifax Ltd
Excel Recruitment
Home Office Cashiers
Ian Farrand HR Management Consultants
Ideas UK
Identix Ltd
Immediate Interns
Insight Consulting
Josephine Sammons Ltd
Kingston Communications plc.
Lambert Smith Hampton
Manpower UK Ltd
Michael Page UK Ltd
Minority Matters Recruitment
McCrindle Associates Ltd
OCS
Officeforce Ltd
Parity Training Ltd
Partnerships UK
Plain English Campaign
PicnicBox
Procurement Services Ltd
QDOS Computer Consultants
Q1 Consulting
Reed Accounting Personnel
Resource Analysts Ltd
RNA Ltd
Robert Walters
Security Services Group
SGS UK Ltd
Siemens Business Services
Sigma
St. John's Ambulance Services
Step Ahead
Streamline Financial Solutions
Telelogic UK Ltd
TK Cobley
The Whelan Partnership
The Whitehall and Industry Group
Turner and Townsend Project Management Ltd
White Young
Yale Data Management Consultant Ltd

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 970W, on identity cards, what estimate he has made of each strand of the national identity project that are *(a)* required and *(b)* not required for biometric passports. [130331]

John Reid: Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for in future development projects. My estimate is that only one project relating to card production would solely relate to the introduction of identity cards but the work of this project at this stage of the programme primarily involves analysis related to common aspects for both passport and identity

card developments (e.g. specification for and procurement of chip technology). The cost can therefore not be disaggregated at this stage of the programme.

Illegal Immigrants: Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of illegal immigrants who are likely to be detected each year as a result of the introduction of the identity cards scheme. [136991]

Joan Ryan: Although no such estimates have yet been made, one of the statutory purposes of the identity cards scheme is to provide a secure and reliable method of identifying people resident in the United Kingdom, where that is in the public interest, including for the purposes of the enforcement of immigration controls, and this will act as a major deterrent to potential illegal migrants.

Immigrants: Turkey

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrants from Turkey were granted *(a)* exceptional leave and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain as a result of the provisions of the Ankara Agreement in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [142515]

Mr. Byrne: No grants of exceptional leave to remain were given as a result of the provisions of the Ankara Agreement.

Only three grants of indefinite leave to remain was given during the period requested, one in 2004 and two in 2006.

Information on decisions relating to Turkish nationals making applications for the period May 2005 to December 2006 was published by the Department in February 2007. It can be found at the following website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/ECAA_final.pdf

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Standards

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the legacy was of case records still to be decided by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate on *(a)* 16 July 2006 and *(b)* 12 March 2007; what estimate he has made of the time it will take to clear these cases; and whether the legacy of cases is being dealt with (i) after and (ii) at the same time as new cases. [127657]

Mr. Byrne: In his statement to Parliament on 19 July 2006, the Home Secretary advised that there was a legacy of between 400,000 and 450,000 electronic and paper records relating to unresolved asylum cases, and that we would aim to clear these cases in five years or less. It is our intention to complete consideration of all current legacy cases by July 2011.

The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February with an update on the Legacy Programme. A copy of the letter is in the Library.

Immigration Control

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his Department will liaise with the Scottish Parliament Cabinet Secretary of Justice to consider the creation of a new international organisation to promote common international standards and technology in border control. [144405]

Mr. Byrne: We are in the very early stages of considering the potential for development of such a body. This work will be taken forward in liaison with interested parties in the UK and abroad.

Immigration: Appeals

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of an immigration appeal, excluding deportation and asylum appeals, before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal where his Department is represented by *(a)* a presenting officer and *(b)* Treasury counsel was over the last 12 months. [141410]

John Reid: The average cost of an immigration appeal before the tribunal where the Home Office is represented by a Home Office Presenting Officer is £981. The average cost where the Home Office is represented by Treasury Counsel is estimated to be £1,448.

The figures represent an estimated average of all immigration appeal hearings before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, excluding deportation and asylum appeals, for the last financial year including the costs incurred by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and the average cost for providing a Presenting Officer or Treasury Counsel.

Immigration: Kosovo

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was for citizenship application forms to be processed for applicants from Kosovo in the latest period for which figures are available. [141765]

Mr. Byrne: The average waiting time for the processing of citizenship applications from receipt to decision for applicants from Kosovo was 3.53 months for the 12 month period up to 31 May 2007.

This information has not been quality assured, and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information.

Labour Party: Conferences

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated costs are of policing the Special Labour Party Conference on 24 June in Manchester; and who will meet the costs. [144988]

Mr. McNulty: The chief constable of Greater Manchester police has advised that he estimates the costs of policing the event will be £200,000. I have spoken to the chief constable and the chair of the Police Authority to discuss the issue and explained

the procedures for applying to the Home Office for special grant support. The force has expressed its intention to submit a grant which will be processed in the usual way.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive answer to Question 123572, on removal proceedings, tabled on 21 February by the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam for answer on 23 February. [141355]

John Reid: I replied to the hon. Member on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2065W.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department expects to respond to the letter of 14 March from the hon. Member for Billericay on Mr. I. Clarke of Billericay. [145612]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member for Billericay on 22 June 2007.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Minister of State for Nationality, Citizenship and Immigration to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey of 19 March 2007, reference SP2271, on employees of Strathaird Salmon Ltd, Inverness. [140446]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 June 2007.

Nathalie Ketchanou

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis Miss Nathalie Ketchanou was immediately returned to the UK from Kenya following her deportation from the UK; and at what cost. [134975]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 June 2007.

National Police Memorial Day

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to attend the National Police Memorial Day on 30th September 2007. [143203]

Mr. McNulty: It is very likely that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and myself will attend the National Police Memorial day as was the case in 2006 in Belfast.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were removed from the United Kingdom by administrative removal in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [144736]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

On 14 June the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on foreign national prisoners. In this letter the Director reported that 2784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Offensive Weapons: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of knife crime offences in West Lancashire in each year since 1997. [144823]

Mr. Coaker: The information available centrally relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. As figures are not collected below police force area level, data relating to Lancashire police are given in the table.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by sharp instrument[2] by Lancashire police: 1997-98 to 2005-06

Year offence initially	Lancashire police
1997-98	6
1998-99	2
1999-2000	1
2000-01	15
2001-02	4
2002-03	10
2003-04	12
2004-05	11
2005-06	1

[1] As at 9 October 2006: figures subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information comes to light.
[2] Includes all sharp instruments, including knives.
Source:
Based on England and Wales totals as published in "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005/2006" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07).

Passports: Interviews

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service have received on the account taken of the need for interviews in the costs of first-time passport applications. [144460]

Joan Ryan: Any representations received in the Home Office on issues relating to British passports are passed on to the Identity and Passport Service.

The statistical breakdown of complaints received by the Identity and Passport Service does not show this issue as a separate category. From correspondence dealt with in the Identity and Passport Service HQ in 2007, one representation on the account taken in passport fees of the costs of interviews has been identified.

Police Air Support Units

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police authorities operate shared police air support units. [145440]

Mr. McNulty: The following police authorities operate joint police air support units in formal shared-cost arrangements:

Avon and Somerset
Gloucestershire
Cambridgeshire
Essex
Suffolk
Derbyshire
Nottinghamshire
Leicestershire
Northamptonshire
Warwickshire
Northumbria
Cleveland
Durham
South Wales
Gwent
Thames Valley
Bedfordshire
Hertfordshire
West Mercia
Staffordshire

Police: Boats

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in Marine Units in each police authority in each of the last 10 years. [143932]

Mr. McNulty: The available data relate to the number of people primarily employed in the function "marine". This includes all individuals who predominately conduct marine or boat patrols including supervisors, and those who perform support functions within marine sections or units. This does not include those individuals who carry out underwater searches.

The available data for police officers are from 2002-03 onwards, and the available data for police staff are from 2004-05 onwards, both are given in the following tables.

Police staff (FTE)[1] whose main function is marine[2] (2004-05 to 2005-06)[3]

	As at 31 March 2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0
Cheshire	0	0
Cleveland	0	0
Cumbria	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0
Dorset	0	0
Durham	0	0
Essex	2	3
Gloucestershire	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0
Hampshire	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0
Humberside	0	0
Kent	0	0
Lancashire	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0
London, City of	0	0
Merseyside	0	0
Metropolitan police	4	0
Norfolk	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0
Northumbria	5	6
North Yorkshire	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0
Suffolk	0	0
Surrey	0	0
Sussex	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0
West Mercia	0	0
West Midlands	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0
Gwent	0	0
North Wales	0	0
South Wales	0	0

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual Chief Constables. This function includes those staff who are predominately conduct marine or boat patrols including supervisors, and those who perform support functions within marine sections or units.
[3] Data are not available for 2002-03 to 2003-04.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is marine[2] (2002-03 to 2005-06)

	As at 31 March 2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0
Dorset	6	6	7	6
Durham	0	0	0	0
Essex	9	9	10	10
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is marine[2] (2002-03 to 2005-06)

	As at 31 March			
	2003	2004	2005	2006
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	9	9	9	10
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	6	5
Lancashire	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan police	92	70	62	53
Norfolk	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	15	17	16	17
North Yorkshire	0	0	3	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	7	6	4	5
Gwent	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	22	0	0

[1] This tabie contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual Chief Constables. This function includes those staff who are predominately conduct marine or boat patrols including supervisors, and those who perform support functions within marine sections or units.

Police: Cameras

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects the police head camera pilot project to be completed; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the pilot in reducing levels of violent crime; [143244]

(2) which police authorities are using head camera technology. [143245]

Mr. McNulty: The Plymouth Body Worn Video Devices Pilot project ended on 31 March 2007.

The final assessment report into the effectiveness of the cameras during the pilot in reducing crime, increasing numbers of offenders brought to justice and reducing police bureaucracy will be published, together with the associated guidance for the Police use of Body Worn Video Devices, at a launch event on 12 July 2007 in Plymouth.

42 police forces across the UK have expressed an interest in this head camera project. The Home Office does not hold statistics on how many forces have implemented the technology to date.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on police: disciplinary proceedings, what steps he is taking to address the level of suspensions of *(a)* full-time police officers and *(b)* police community support officers; and if he will make a statement. [144784]

Mr. McNulty: The new police officer misconduct procedures that are currently being developed will modernise the police officer disciplinary process and should lead to a speedier resolution of misconduct matters and thereby reduce the time that police officers are required to be suspended. The new procedures do not however apply to PCSO's, who are subject to their employment contract and decisions to suspend are for the forces concerned.

Police: Helicopters

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued to police authorities on the procurement of police helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [145437]

Mr. McNulty: The current procurement basis for Police aircraft (helicopters and aeroplanes) is the extant 1993 National Air Support Strategy. This document established Home Office capital funding (originally on a 49 per cent. (half grant and half credit approval)/51 per cent. basis) to encourage the rapid growth of Air Support Units. It also encouraged forces to operate in consortia, to share costs, and set funding priorities for new aircraft, equipment and infrastructure.

In 2004 the funding arrangements were revised to provide up to a 40 per cent. (all grant) contribution to capital projects from a total allocation of £5 million.

Police: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime scene investigators are in post in each police force in West Lancashire; and what percentage of those are civilian. [144957]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics. The available information is the number of police officers and police staff who are primarily involved in the function "Scenes of Crime".

The available data are for the Lancashire police force, and are given in the following table.

Scenes of crime function[1,2] (FTE)[3] in Lancashire police force as at 31 March 2006

	Number/percentage
Total number of officers/staff	74
Percentage of civilian staff in total number	93

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Overall force totals including those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The data in the function breakdown is from unpublished sources and therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.
[3] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.

Police: Manpower

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police force in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [142957]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2006

Police force	1996	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	2,981	2,989	2,976	2,999	2,934	2,994	3,096	3,149	3,401	3,384	3,389
Bedfordshire	1,128	1,094	1,079	1,041	1,028	1,036	1,069	1,106	1,181	1,215	1,198
Cambridgeshire	1,238	1,302	1,291	1,274	1,237	1,296	1,362	1,384	1,400	1,402	1,430
Cheshire	1,998	2,046	2,042	2,071	2,011	2,002	2,059	2,119	2,177	2,186	2,174
Cleveland	1,420	1,459	1,483	1,416	1,404	1,407	1,461	1,582	1,687	1,676	1,677
Cumbria	1,115	1,144	1,164	1,126	1,084	1,048	1,100	1,140	1,222	1,232	1,230
Derbyshire	1,763	1,791	1,772	1,759	1,777	1,823	1,848	2,003	2,070	2,070	2,046
Devon and Cornwall	2,899	2,865	2,962	2,887	2,841	2,934	3,053	3,202	3,283	3,369	3,493
Dorset	1,263	1,284	1,310	1,279	1,306	1,354	1,381	1,416	1,433	1,450	1,485
Durham	1,401	1,461	1,515	1,568	1,558	1,595	1,614	1,651	1,685	1,718	1,699
Essex	2,884	2,961	2,928	2,891	2,806	2,897	2,946	2,989	3,098	3,190	3,279
Gloucestershire	1,133	1,133	1,104	1,104	1,114	1,173	1,183	1,227	1,284	1,291	1,289
Greater Manchester	6,938	6,922	6,949	6,810	6,795	6,909	7,217	7,343	8,042	8,041	7,959
Hampshire	3,347	3,452	3,490	3,473	3,419	3,438	3,480	3,668	3,706	3,725	3,707
Hertfordshire	1,712	1,759	1,740	1,724	1,767	1,922	1,825	1,957	2,086	2,104	2,126
Humberside	2,041	2,045	2,021	1,974	1,932	1,917	2,058	2,105	2,213	2,230	2,224
Kent	3,120	3,260	3,251	3,201	3,204	3,319	3,355	3,487	3,576	3,586	3,599
Lancashire	3,171	3,248	3,257	3,245	3,179	3,255	3,304	3,339	3,550	3,551	3,583
Leicestershire	1,908	1,949	1,983	1,993	1,993	2,032	2,100	2,114	2,277	2,283	2,250
Lincolnshire	1,145	1,196	1,191	1,140	1,115	1,202	1,198	1,221	1,228	1,221	1,213
London, City of	869	859	825	778	732	703	764	808	853	876	869
Merseyside	4,411	4,230	4,216	4,211	4,085	4,081	4,125	4,099	4,122	4,317	4,269
Metropolitan police	27,343	26,677	26,094	26,073	25,485	24,878	26,223	27,984	29,735	30,710	30,536
Norfolk	1,401	1,432	1,430	1,381	1,381	1,420	1,468	1,499	1,510	1,544	1,557
Northamptonshire	1,153	1,177	1,169	1,137	1,117	1,157	1,214	1,210	1,239	1,267	1,317
Northumbria	3,668	3,677	3,769	3,840	3,788	3,857	3,929	3,943	4,040	4,048	3,983
North Yorkshire	1,324	1,338	1,367	1,337	1,283	1,305	1,417	1,444	1,529	1,543	1,636
Nottinghamshire	2,318	2,323	2,323	2,225	2,204	2,275	2,330	2,411	2,484	2,502	2,477
South Yorkshire	3,073	3,159	3,182	3,168	3,163	3,197	3,199	3,183	3,279	3,265	3,255
Staffordshire	2,209	2,211	2,292	2,238	2,170	2,129	2,133	2,202	2,266	2,280	2,272
Suffolk	1,138	1,174	1,186	1,190	1,145	1,133	1,203	1,253	1,304	1,313	1,300
Surrey	1,644	1,620	1,608	1,662	1,785	2,066	1,992	1,906	1,913	1,915	1,922
Sussex	3,074	3,085	2,996	2,847	2,822	2,855	2,893	2,989	3,039	3,044	3,092
Thames Valley	3,674	3,695	3,776	3,748	3,740	3,703	3,762	3,833	4,034	4,114	4,229
Warwickshire	979	926	924	908	900	926	969	997	1,008	1,011	1,032
West Mercia	2,017	2,040	2,010	2,025	1,887	1,951	2,018	2,256	2,355	2,367	2,351
West Midlands	7,145	7,113	7,156	7,321	7,194	7,423	7,681	7,751	7,887	8,056	8,097
West Yorkshire	5,142	5,209	5,155	4,982	4,822	4,815	4,889	5,029	5,275	5,631	5,644

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2006

Police force	1996	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001[4]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Wiltshire	1,219	1,154	1,156	1,151	1,118	1,120	1,157	1,158	1,217	1,222	1,219
Dyfed-Powys	991	1,005	1,002	1,026	1,040	1,055	1,132	1,149	1,160	1,174	1,182
Gwent	1,044	1,243	1,233	1,247	1,264	1,274	1,333	1,341	1,372	1,438	1,467
North Wales	1,378	1,369	1,396	1,391	1,403	1,444	1,506	1,539	1,603	1,652	1,617
South Wales	3,027	2,976	2,986	2,981	2,926	3,154	3,222	3,239	3,279	3,281	3,263
Total England and Wales	124,844	125,051	124,756	123,841	121,956	123,476	127,267	131,426	137,105	139,495	139,633

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police staff were dedicated solely to the recovery of stolen works of art in each of the last 10 years. [142965]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for each local constabulary.

Police: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many accidents police vehicles were involved in each of the last five years; how many injuries were sustained by *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in such accidents; and if he will make a statement. [143199]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the tables. The data are not available by rank.

Number of road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles, from 2002-03 to 2005-06—England and Wales

	Number
2002-03[1]	18,644
2003-04	20,511
2004-05[2]	19,046
2005-06	19,280

[1] Data not available for Durham and West Midlands.
[2] Data not available for Cleveland, Leicestershire and South Wales.

Number of police personnel casualties resulting from those road traffic accidents during immediate/emergency response—England and Wales

	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Other injury
2002-03[1]	2	33	568
2003-04	1	38	765
2004-05[2]	0	25	781
2005-06[3]	3	28	828

[1] Data not available for Durham, Metropolitan Police (other injury only), North Yorkshire and West Midlands.
[2] Data not available for Dorset and Leicestershire.
[3] Data not available for Nottinghamshire.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the total cost of all police pensions as a share of police spending in each year from 1990-91 to 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [144276]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the total cost of police pensions as a share of police spending since 1990-91 is not held centrally as the administration of the police pension schemes is the responsibility of individual police authorities. Information on financial statistics, including expenditure on police pensions and overall spending, for police forces is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

The following figures are the most recently published projections of total future expenditure on police pensions in England and Wales, net of the contributions made by serving officers. These were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) as part of the consultation process on the new system for funding police pensions in 2005. GAD advise that in view of the time elapsed since the figures were produced they should be viewed only as indicative of the likely future trend of police pensions expenditure. No projections are available for 2013-14 to 2020-21:

Financial year	Estimated pensions expenditure (£ billion)
2007-08	1.61
2008-09	1.74
2009-10	1.88
2010-11	2.00
2011-12	2.12
2012-13	2.25

Police spending is based on government grants on which no decisions have yet been taken for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) years and on police precept which is a matter for local authorities. Information on projected police spending for 2007-08 is included in the annual reports published by CIPFA.

The system for financing police pensions changed on 1 April 2006. Under the new system, police authorities no longer have to meet the cost of pensions in payment out of their operating accounts. Police authorities now have a separate pensions account for this purpose, into which are paid officers' contributions and a new employer's contribution. Where the pensions account does not have enough funds to meet the cost of pensions in any year it is topped up with a grant from central Government; any surplus is recouped. A key benefit of this change is that it takes away from police

authorities the responsibility for meeting the rising cost of pensions in payment as a result of an increase in the number of pensioners.

Police: Vocational Training

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to promote the Fullbright Fellowship in Police Studies scheme. [145417]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency is responsible for the Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies. Details of the Fulbright Fellowship are currently available on the Home Office Website. The NPIA, ACPO and the Fulbright Commission will be working together to promote the scheme across the police service.

Police: Weapons

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the development of non-lethal weaponry to be used by the police in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [143755]

Mr. McNulty: Funding dedicated to the development of less lethal technologies for the police through the Home Office Scientific Development Branch—previously the Police Scientific Development Branch—is set out in the following table.

	£
2002-03	623,551
2003-04	50,300
2004-05	274,140
2005-06	111,409
2006-07	132,711

In addition, the breakdown of cross-Government spend through the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory on developing the Attenuated Energy Projectile (AEP), its predecessor the L21A1 and the Discriminating Irritant Projectile (DIP), is set out in the following table.

	£
2002-03	168,005
2003-04	715,885
2004-05	1,338,189
2005-06	401,053
2006-07	768,191
2007-08	92,097

The development of the L21A1, the AEP and the DIP is overseen by the UK Steering Group on Alternative Policing Approaches Towards the Management of Conflict, set up in line with recommendations 69 and 70 of the Patten Report to establish less potentially lethal alternatives to the baton round and expand the range of tactical options available to operational commanders. The development of less lethal alternatives also addresses the Government's responsibilities arising from article 2 of the UN Basic Principles on the use of Force and Firearms which states that Governments and law enforcement agencies should develop a range of means as broad as possible and equip law enforcement officials with various types of weapons and ammunition that would allow for a differentiated use of force and firearms.

Prisoners: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were transferred from immigration removal centres to open prisons in each of the last three years; and what the criteria were for transferral. [132349]

John Reid: Time-served foreign national prisoners who are held in the Border and Immigration Agency's Removal Estate would only be transferred to prison accommodation where their behaviour threatens the security or control of the Removal Centre concerned or where they are subject to further criminal charges.

Those transfers relating to issues of security or control would not be to category D prisons. Where an individual is transferred back to prison custody because they are subject to further criminal charges, they would be transferred to a closed prison near the court before which they were to appear.

Radio Frequency Identification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the regulation of the use of radio frequency identifiers; and to what use information derived from these is put. [145015]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The use of radio frequency identifiers (RFID) is regulated by Ofcom under the terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Act. Licenses may be granted setting out permitted power levels, frequency bands and antenna configurations to reduce the likelihood of interference with other radio spectrum users.

Harmonised standards maximise the benefits of RFID use in global supply chains. In January 2006 Ofcom responded to a recommendation from the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) making harmonised spectrum available for RFID use in the UK.

The need for further harmonisation was noted in the April 2007 European Commission Communication (7544/07) 'Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in Europe: steps towards a policy framework'. The Government support this approach.

RFID is an important business technology in food production, logistics, supply chain and retail. Information derived from it is used for quality assurance and audit and for efficient management of shipping, supply chain, warehousing and stock. It is used increasingly in documents, banknotes and ticketing to reduce counterfeiting. Millions of RFID enabled cards are used by commuters, easing access to transport systems. RFID is starting to be used in health care where it can significantly enhance patient safety.

Information derived from RFID normally describes objects. Where information pertains to, or is associated with, persons that information is subject to the terms of the Data Protection Act. The Government believe the

current regulatory regime is adequate but keeps it under review in light of future technological and market developments.

Sea Carrier Liaison Officers

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the written statement of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 76-77WS, on the Managing of Global Migration Strategy, how many of the proposed Sea Carrier liaison officers will be stationed in Scotland; and at what ports they will be stationed; [144402]

(2) what plans his Department has to liaise with the Scottish Parliament Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the deployment of the proposed Sea Carrier liaison officers. [144403]

Mr. Byrne: Based on the successful model of the Airline liaison officer, we are examining the concept of a Sea liaison officer who could undertake a similar function at major sea ports of embarkation to the UK. This work is at an early stage and will be taken forward in liaison with all interested parties in the UK and abroad. It is too soon to say where such officers would be located or how many there would be.

Seasonal Workers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals registered to enter the United Kingdom to work as seasonal workers in agriculture in 2007, broken down by nation and region of origin; and if he will make a statement. [132081]

Mr. Byrne: Provisional figures indicate that the nine contracted operators, administering the Home Office Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS), issued 1,535 SAWS work cards to Bulgarian nationals and 890 to Romanian nationals for a set period not exceeding six months in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

We are unable to provide geographical data broken down by region of origin.

Data on Bulgaria and Romania are available on the BIA website by following the link below:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/bulgarianandromanianaccession

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign students registered to enter the United Kingdom to work as seasonal workers in agriculture in each of the last 10 years, broken down by nation and region of origin; and if he will make a statement. [132080]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) work cards issued based on the date the work card was printed. It is broken down by the top 20 nationalities for each year from 2004 to March 2007.

For 1997 to 2003 inclusive, nationality data is not available.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

SAWS work cards printed top 20 nationalities

Year/ Country	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*January-March 2007*
Ukraine	6,909	5,159	5,089	2,339
Bulgaria	3,471	2,742	3,806	1,218
Russia	2,539	2,485	2,921	895
Romania	1,436	1,926	2,050	602
Belarus	2,339	1,618	1,020	311
Moldova	663	992	1,035	327
Poland	1,864	0	0	0
Lithuania	960	1	1	0
China	677	0	0	0
Latvia	594	1	0	0
Macedonia	96	71	143	135
Serbia	96	60	98	67
Georgia	79	116	78	5
Albania	146	66	46	0
Armenia	47	38	91	58
Yugoslavia	14	27	94	1
Mongolia	81	17	8	4
Ghana	11	19	32	40
India	85	6	3	0
Estonia	76	8	3	1
Others	199	112	89	37
Total	22,382	15,464	16,607	6,040

Security Measures

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, how many individuals have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of an offence of encouraging terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2006. [144380]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics are not broken down in the format requested. Figures compiled from police records show that between 13 April 2006 and 12 April 2007, 30 people have been charged under the Terrorism Act 2006. These individuals are currently awaiting trial.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, how many individuals have been denied asylum under the provisions of section 54 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; and on how many occasions he has certified that an appellant is not entitled to the protection of the Refugee Convention under section 55 of the Act. [144381]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, what the timetable is for consulting on

setting a maximum time limit for all future extradition cases involving terrorism; and when he expects to reach a decision on that matter. [144382]

Joan Ryan: The working group referred to in the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, has engaged in a continuous consultation on extradition request made to the UK involving allegations of terrorism.

A statutory maximum time limit might hinder the ability of our independent courts to give full consideration both to the arguments of the requesting state and to those of the wanted person. Under the Extradition Act 2003 and its predecessor legislation, different procedures have had to be applied to different cases. Accordingly, the duration of each stage in each terrorist-related extradition case is now being expedited, so far as possible, through the working group.

Since the working group was initiated under the Prime Minister's 12-point plan, seven people have been extradited for terrorist-related offences; while two have exhausted all domestic proceedings under extradition legislation but have outstanding applications before the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, how many individuals have breached their control orders. [144390]

Mr. McNulty: The Secretary of State reports quarterly on the exercise of his powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. This includes the number of charges and convictions for breach. I refer the hon. Member to my most recent statement of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 109-11W.

Sexual Offences: Wales

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of serious sexual crimes reported in Wales resulted in conviction in the courts in each of the last three years. [145461]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The statistics are not available in the form requested. Recorded sexual offences statistics relate to offences and convictions data relates to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

Figures for the number of offences recorded and the number of convictions are as follows:

	Number
Sexual offences recorded by the police in Wales	
2003-04	2,121
2004-05	2,595
2005-06	2,670

	Number
Persons convicted of sexual offences in Wales	
2003	162
2004	182
2005	201

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, on speed limits: cameras, what estimate he has made of the overall proportion of time spent by traffic police on each of the five main objectives; and whether there has been any change in the priorities over the last 10 years. [145659]

Mr. McNulty: The statement setting out the joint Home Office, Department for Transport and ACPO Roads Policing Strategy was issued in January 2005. It listed formally for the first time the five main objectives of roads policing and has not subsequently been amended. How police resources are deployed to meet those objectives, including the amount of time spent on each of them, is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. Information is not collected centrally.

Srichand Hinduja

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the Hammond Review of the circumstances surrounding the application for naturalisation by Mr. S. P. Hinduja. [143707]

Mr. Byrne: Sir Anthony Hammond carried out two reviews for the Prime Minister. The first was to establish the circumstances of any approaches to the Home Office about an application for naturalisation by Mr. S. P. Hinduja and the later grant of that application. The second followed on to examine certain additional papers. The reviews were supported by members of Home Office staff. The costs were in the region of £20,000.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the names of *(a)* suspected terrorists subject to control orders and *(b)* any such suspected terrorists who have absconded have their names automatically passed to HM Treasury for the purpose of freezing their assets. [144564]

Mr. McNulty: The passing of such information to HM Treasury is decided on a case-by-case basis and is subject to operational and security considerations.

Terrorism: Sri Lanka

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to prevent the financing from the UK of Tamil Tiger terrorists in Sri Lanka. [145575]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office works closely with law enforcement agencies and other Government Departments to prevent the financing of terrorism.

Tul Bahadur Pun UI

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria were first used to decide whether former Rifleman Tul Bahadur Pun UI should be admitted to the UK; and what the revised criteria were which led to the final decision in his case. [141033]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The rules applying to applications for indefinite leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom by former Gurkhas who completed their service on or after 1 July 1997 are set out in paragraphs 276E to 276K of the Immigration Rules. I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the relevant policy contained on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/immigrationrules/part7

Discretion may be exercised for Gurkhas discharged from service before 1 July 1997, and who are not covered by the Immigration Rules, where there are strong reasons why settlement in the UK is appropriate. This guidance is contained in chapter 15, section 2A of the Immigration Directorate Instructions at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/idischapter15/

The circumstances surrounding Tul Bahadur Pun's case are clearly exceptional. In the light of this, the Secretary of State and I reviewed the case and made the decision to grant Mr. Pun a settlement visa. Our decision was not taken lightly and reflected the extraordinary nature of this case, in particular Mr. Pun's heroic record in service of Britain which saw him awarded the Victoria Cross. Full account was also taken of Mr. Pun's current medical condition.

Work Permits

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many IT, communications and electronics work permits were withdrawn due to non-compliance with the terms of the scheme in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [145080]

Mr. Byrne: The number of work permits that were revoked during the years in question is in the table.

The revocation process was not developed until late 2004. Employers are given the opportunity to make representations on the permits that are to be revoked and any such representations are considered carefully so the process takes several weeks. This is why permits were not revoked until 2005.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

	Number
(a) 2004	No work permits were revoked
(b) 2005	6 IT work permits relating to seven employers
	No communications work permits
	No electronics work permits
(c) 2006	196 IT work permits relating to 52 employers
	No communications work permits
	One electronics work permit relating to one employer

Work Permits: Fraud

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations the Home Office Work Permits Section carried out into complaints of work permits abuse in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [145078]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Work Permits: IT

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which 10 sponsoring companies were issued the largest number of work permits for IT workers in each year since 2000; and how many such permits were issued to each company in each year. [145014]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency is unable to release details of individual companies who have been issued with work permits. We consider the information provided by applicants to be confidential and that disclosure of such information would constitute a breach of confidence.

Workers Registration Scheme: North East Region

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU workers were registered in the Worker Registration Scheme in each local authority in the North East at the most recent available date. [144406]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the last published data by local authority for the number of workers when they first registered to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) in the 'North East' Government Office Region for the period 1 May 2004 to 31 March 2007.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Local authority	*Number*
Alnwick	125
Berwick-upon-Tweed	195
Blyth Valley	185
Castle Morpeth	395
Chester-le-Street	35
Darlington	470
Derwentside	570
Durham	255

Local authority	Number
Easington	195
Gateshead	515
Hartlepool	70
Middlesbrough	240
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,515
North Tyneside	260
Redcar and Cleveland	95
Sedgefield	175
South Tyneside	80
Stockton-on-Tees	315
Sunderland	540
Teesdale	65
Tynedale	150
Wansbeck	40
Wear Valley	150
Total	6,630

Notes:
1. 94 per cent. of approved nationwide applications have an accurate post code. Applications where post codes could not be matched to the Office of National Statistics database are excluded from this data-set.
2. Figures based on employers address and the date the application is approved, rather than the date on the application form as used and published in the Accession Monitoring Report.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
4. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to total shown.

Written Questions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer questions *(a)* (i) 123879, (ii) 123878, (iii) 123877, (iv) 123875, (v) 123876 and (vi) 123961, on immigration and *(b)* 114916, on the emergency services, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham. [128535]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member as follows: *(a)* (i) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 462W, (ii) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1960W (iii), (iv), (v) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 462W; (vi) on 16 April, *Official Report*, column 460W.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Coaker) replied to question 114916 on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 404W.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer question 123878, on arrests at the liquid natural gas terminal in Pembrokeshire, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham on 22 February. [135526]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1960W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects to answer question 124194, on identity cards, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 26 February 2007; and what the reasons are for the delay; [144582]

(2) when he expects to reply to question 124194, on identity cards, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South for answer on 28 February 2007. [135944]

Joan Ryan: I replied to the hon. Member on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons women in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre may be denied *(a)* access to their mobile telephones and *(b)* access to satellite news broadcasts. [144839]

Mr. Byrne: Access to a mobile phone would be denied only during a period of temporary confinement away from the main accommodation areas. There has never been any attempt to deny the women at Yarl's Wood access to satellite television news broadcasts.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons women detainees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre may be *(a)* handcuffed and *(b)* given medication when being taken to UK airports. [144840]

Mr. Byrne: Handcuffs can be applied following a risk assessment where the detainee is deemed to present a control or security risk. Only medication associated with an extant medical condition, properly prescribed at the centre would accompany the individual.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis the *(a)* prices and *(b)* level of profit at the shops at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre are arrived at. [144841]

Mr. Byrne: Prices in the shop at Yarl's Wood are set in line with the recommended retail price. The level of profit at the shop is capped at 10 per cent.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access to medical care is available to detainees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre. [144842]

Mr. Byrne: All detainees are seen by a nurse in reception on arrival at the centre. Within 24 hours all detainees are offered an appointment to see a doctor. Thereafter, a doctor's surgery and nurses clinics are offered on a daily basis and operate on an appointment system. Secondary care is provided by the primary care trust and access to these services mirror those in the community.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the daily allowance is to detainees of Yarl's Wood Detention Centre; and on what basis it may be denied. [144845]

Mr. Byrne: All detained adult persons receive a weekly allowance of £5.00. Children receive a weekly allowance of £2.50. Monies are credited on a daily basis at the rate of £0.71 for adults and £0.35 for children. The daily allowance is never denied.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what privacy is accorded to women detainees in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, with particular reference to male guards *(a)* entering rooms without warning and *(b)* searching rooms. [144848]

Mr. Byrne: All staff at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre receive training outlining the appropriate behaviour to be used when entering detainees' rooms. All staff, both male and female, are advised to knock first and then slightly open the door after a brief while if no response has been made. They will then announce themselves and then wait again before entering the room. In cases of emergency, to preserve life or detainee safety a member of staff may have to enter a room without warning. All such instances are required to be documented.

In line with the searching procedures agreed by the Home Office, all rooms are searched on a regular basis as a requirement of the contract.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* children have been detained in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre for (i) up to six months, (ii) between six and 12 months, (iii) between 12 to 18 months and (iv) longer than 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [144850]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office publishes a quarterly snapshot of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter. The latest published information pertains to people detained as at 31 March 2007.

The accompanying table shows the number of women and children detained solely under Immigration Act powers in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre as at 31 March 2007 by length of detention.

Information on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletins, on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Persons recorded as being in detention at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers as at 31 March 2007, by length of detention[1]

Length of detention[2,3]	*Number of women*[4]	*Number of children*[5]
Less than 6 months	270	50
6 months to less than 12 months	20	—
12 months to less than 18 months	5	—
18 months or more	*	—
Total	300	50

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five ('—' = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
[2] Relates to current period of sole detention only.
[3] Six months is defined as 182 days; 12 months is defined as 365 days; 18 months is defined as 547 days.
[4] Females recorded as being 18 or over on 31 March 2007.
[5] Persons recorded as being under 18 on 31 March 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours in each day women in Yarl's Wood Detention Centre are confined to their rooms; and in what circumstances this figure may be varied. [144851]

Mr. Byrne: Women at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre are not confined to their rooms at any stage during the day. All detainees are required to be in their rooms to enable a roll check but once this has been completed they are able to move freely within their accommodation units.

JUSTICE

Association of Panel Members: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what discussions she has held on the funding arrangements for the Association of Panel Members; and if she will make a statement; [145422]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 976W, on the National Appropriate Adult Network: finance, what steps he is taking to support the work of the Association of Panel Members; and if he will consider meeting the Chair of the Association of Panel Members; [145455]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 976W, on the National Appropriate Adult Network: finance, if his Department will consider the merits of providing similar departmental funding to the Association of Panel Members. [145477]

Bridget Prentice: Funding for referral panels is provided to Youth Offending Teams by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which is in turn funded by the Ministry of Justice. The Youth Justice Board supports the work of referral panel members by providing training and guidance. In January 2007 the Association of Panel Members approached the YJB and inquired about funding. The YJB replied that no funding was available and although the matter could be reviewed at a later date, no commitment could be made regarding future funding. There are no plans for the Secretary of the State to meet the Chair of the Association of Panel Members.

Chelmsford Prison

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many places are available in Chelmsford Prison; [145613]

(2) how many prisoners at Chelmsford Prison share a room with *(a)* one and *(b)* two other prisoners. [145614]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Operational capacity at Chelmsford is 695. At unlock on 22 June the population was 692. 306 prisoners in total were sharing a cell with one other prisoner. No prisoners were three to a cell.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many inmates committed suicide in Chelmsford Prison in each of the last 10 years. [145615]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Self-inflicted deaths[1]*, Chelmsford*

	Number
1997	1
1998	2
1999	1
2000	1
2001	1
2002	1
2003	0

Self-inflicted deaths[1], Chelmsford

	Number
2004	0
2005	1
2006	1
2007 to date[2]	1

[1] Self-inflicted deaths include all deaths where it appears the individual acted specifically to take their own life, not only those that received a suicide or open verdict at inquest.
[2] Up to 21 June 2007.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will consider funding the Mentoring 4 U project in Chelmsford Prison. [145616]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The funding of offender learning and skills, including meeting the needs of those with learning difficulties and/disabilities—and those with dyslexia—is the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills and its agencies. Consequently, the Ministry of Justice will not be providing funding for this project.

I understand that the Skills Minister has written to the hon. Member directly on this matter.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are expected to be released from Chelmsford Prison under the recently announced planned early release initiative. [145929]

Mr. Hanson: I estimate that around 2,500 prisoners per month will be eligible for release on an End of Custody Licence. This is a national figure. Data are not currently available to break down this number by prison establishment.

Courts: Clothing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will bring forward proposals for the reform of court dress, with particular reference to wigs. [145473]

Ms Harman: This is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice. He has been consulting on this issue and intends to make an announcement about judges' working dress in the near future.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the budget of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority is for 2007-08; [145758]

(2) what budget surplus or deficit the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority has recorded in the last two years. [145759]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The planned annual budget for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in 2007-08 is £187.749 million in resource DEL and £1.2 million in capital DEL. The near-cash budget is £225.789 million.

The budget is currently held by the Home Office and will transfer to the Ministry of Justice later this year.

CICA's annual report and accounts 2005-06, laid before Parliament on 21 June 2007, shows (at page 15) that the retained surplus for the financial year 2005-06 after transfers from reserves and reversal of notional cost of capital was £5.290 million, while the deficit for 2004-05 was £45.335 million. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available and will be subject to audit in the usual way.

Crown Court Cells

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all inmates detained in Crown Court cells have been subject to cell sharing risk assessments; who has conducted such assessments; what level of training they had received; and if she will make a statement. [143417]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All court cells used are single occupancy only.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all inmates detained in Crown Court cells have been subject to assessment for self-harm as laid down in Prison Service Order 2700; who has been responsible for such assessments; what level of training they had received; and if she will make a statement. [143418]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners previously held in prison accommodation will have been assessed in line with PSO 2700.

All prisoners, whether or not previously held in custody, have a "Prisoner Escort Record" (PER) form, on which issues giving rise to concern are noted. Contractor staff and the on-site constables are also able to open a Suicide/Self Harm Warning form or an ACCT form and take management action as appropriate. At each court a clinic is held each night by a qualified health care professional to identify and help address any health issues arising.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all Crown Court cells used to detain inmates overnight were subject to risk assessments to ensure that they were suitable for that purpose; what assessment was made of the availability of ligature points in the cells and the consequent risks posed; who was responsible for carrying out such assessments; where the risk assessments records are held; and if she will make a statement. [143419]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All court cells used to hold prisoners overnight have been assessed by NOMS for health and safety issues, including fire risks. NOMS has also carried out an assessment of the staffing levels appropriate to each site.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what contingency plans cover the holding of prisoners in Crown Court cells overnight; who agreed the contingency plans; and if she will place a copy of these plans in the Library. [143420]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The use of court cells takes place only as a measure of last resort if accommodation in prison and police cells is exhausted.

Their use is underpinned by arrangements between NOMS, HM Court Service and other operational delivery agencies such as HM Prison Service.

These plans are for use as management information only.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all Crown Court cells used for detaining prisoners overnight have integral sanitation. [143554]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Most court cells do not have integral sanitation. However, prisoners held in court cells overnight have access to sanitary facilities within the custody area.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether any prisoners on an open ACCT or 2052SH form have been detained in Crown Court cells overnight. [143555]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on current information I am not aware that any prisoners with an open ACCT or 2052SH form have been held overnight in court cells. One occasion has been identified where an ACCT form was opened on a prisoner in the course of the night by medical staff on site in accordance with operating procedures.

Custodial Treatment: Sexual Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what proportion of convictions for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual offences in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England resulted in custodial sentences in each year since 1997. [143925]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the percentage of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to rape of males and females, and sexual offences not including rape of males and females, who were given immediate custody in certain police force areas and England for the years 1997 to 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Percentage of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to rape of males and females who were given immediate custody in certain police force areas and England for the years 1997 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*	*Percentage rape England*
1997	100	100	95	100	100	100	97
1998	100	100	93	88	100	100	97
1999	80	100	100	90	100	100	96
2000	100	100	67	100	100	100	95
2001	100	100	100	88	100	100	96
2002	100	100	71	100	100	100	97
2003	100	100	100	100	100	100	97
2004	100	100	100	85	100	100	96
2005	100	91	92	100	91	89	94

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes data from the Sexual Offences Act 2004, which came into force on 1 May 2004.
[4] Care should be taken when using the figures for individual police force areas as these data are based on less than 100 cases.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Percentage of defendants convicted at all courts for sexual offences excluding rape of males and females who were given immediate custody in certain police force areas and England for the years 1997 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*	*Percentage other sexual offences England*
1997	36	50	57	47	45	57	48
1998	60	34	40	53	60	60	46
1999	56	37	59	36	61	31	48
2000	64	48	56	53	50	46	50
2001	61	40	54	72	56	50	48
2002	45	51	36	63	55	38	47
2003	69	53	49	55	52	52	44
2004	69	52	56	47	52	52	47
2005	58	49	48	45	56	45	45

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence/care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes data from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2003.
[4] Care should be taken when using the figures for individual police force areas as these data are based on less than 100 cases.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Data Protection: Prosecutions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prosecutions against data controllers for failure to notify the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 were brought in each year since the coming into force of that Act. [144330]

Vera Baird: The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) came into effect on 1 March 2000.

Prosecutions for non-notification under section 17 of the DPA can be instituted by the Information Commissioner or by, or with the consent of, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Data on all prosecutions under the DPA are collected by the Ministry of Justice's Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data are collected under specific codes and not on individual case circumstances. Data on the number of prosecutions for non-notification of the processing of personal data under section 17 of the Act therefore cannot be separately identified and data are not available. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Information Commissioner's Office maintains details of prosecutions that they have instituted for non-notification under section 17 of the DPA. These figures are as follows:

	Number
2000	0
2001	0
2002	1
2003	0
2004	3
2005	8
2006	13
2007	1

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prosecutions for non-notification of the processing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 have been brought by *(a)* the Information Commissioner, *(b)* the Director of Public Prosecutions and *(c)* others with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. [144331]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner's Office has instituted a total of 26 prosecutions for non-notification under section 17 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

Data on prosecutions under the DPA are collected by the Ministry of Justice's Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data are collected under specific codes and not on individual case circumstances. Data on the number of prosecutions for non-notification of the processing of personal data under section 17 of the Act brought by, and with the consent of, the Director of Public Prosecutions therefore cannot be separately identified and data are not available. The information could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many prosecutions for non-notification of the processing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 have resulted in convictions; and what penalty was imposed in each case in which no further proceedings are active; [144332]

Vera Baird: Prosecutions for non-notification under section 17 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) can be instituted by the Information Commissioner or by, or with the consent of, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Data on all prosecutions under the DPA are collected by the Ministry of Justice's Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data are collected under specific codes and not on individual case circumstances. Data on the number of prosecutions for non-notification of the processing of personal data under section 17 of the Act therefore cannot be separately identified and data are not available. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost

The Information Commissioner's Office maintains details of prosecutions that they have instituted for non-notification under section 17 of the DPA. Since the introduction of the DPA on 1 March 2000 the Information Commissioner's Office has successfully prosecuted 26 cases under section 17 of the DPA, the details of the penalties imposed in these cases are: one penalty was a conditional discharge, one penalty was linked with other more serious charges and resulted in a sentence of 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service and 24 of the penalties were fines as shown in the table:

Number of convictions	*Amount of fine (£)*
4	100
4	200
2	250
4	300
2	350
1	400
2	500
1	750
1	750
2	5000
1	5750

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many requests for prosecutions against data controllers for failure to notify the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998 have been made to *(a)* the Information Commissioner and *(b)* the Director of Public Prosecutions since 30 June 2005. [144333]

Vera Baird: Neither the Information Commissioner's Office or the Crown Prosecution Service, who deal with prosecutions on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions, keep details of requests made for prosecutions against data controllers for non-notification offences under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144956]

Ms Harman: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144955]

Ms Harman: It is the Ministry of Justice's Procurement Policy to purchase sustainable goods and services wherever appropriate and possible. All Ministry of Justice Procurement staff have a responsibility to promote and support the Governments Sustainable Development agenda by working closely with both customers and suppliers.

There is no historical data or system in place to record the number of energy saving light bulbs purchased.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in her Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144467]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice has two Memoranda of Understanding in force with China relating to training programmes for Chinese lawyers and judges. The Ministry funds and oversees both programmes.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 208W, on Departments: marketing, what the sources are of the additional costs which *(a)* have been incurred since 9 May 2007 and *(b)* may yet be incurred. [144503]

Vera Baird: There has only been one approved item of additional cost since 9 May 2007. This is for an IT Project Manager to migrate projects from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice.

The new Ministry is currently reviewing its organisational structure and operating model. Depending on the outcome of this review, further costs may be incurred, e.g. on additional integration. Also, there will be costs relating to the various project teams who will take forward any actions arising from the review.

Any additional costs will, where possible, be required to be absorbed into current budget allocations. Where this is not possible, the MoJ Steering Group will approve the expenditure.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 208W, on Departments: marketing, if she will provide a breakdown of the figure of £1.5 million by main budget heading; and what the evidential basis was for the estimate. [144504]

Vera Baird: The £1.5 million estimate provided in previous answers is made up of the following budget headings:

Budget heading	*Approximate costs (£ million)*
Policy (consultancy; policy documents)	0.07
IT (capital: hardware; accessibility; branding: templates; desktop)	0.70
Project Management	0.08
Commercial (consultancy support; resolution and accountancy issues)	0.16
Estates (new offices; signage)	0.28
Communications (logo; presentation stands; branding; internet/intranet development)	0.13
Human Resources (rebranding; staff)	0.04
Private Offices (IT improvements)	0.04
Total	1.50

All business cases for MoJ transitional expenditure are presented to the Ministry of Justice Steering Group.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by her Department in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144627]

Vera Baird: Since my Department was created on 9 May 2007, the Ministry of Justice's spend on advertising has been as follows:

£2,100 on advertising for the Camberwell Green magistrates court payback scheme through Barkers

£3,700 on recruitment through Euro ESCG Riley.

£22,900 on magistrates recruitment (no agency used).

£54,435 on senior judicial recruitment through TMP UK and Michael Page International.

Spending by the Ministry on marketing cannot be separated from other communications expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her

Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145935]

Vera Baird: Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May and does not have a concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive. The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent by her Department and its predecessor on public relations in each of the last five years. [139422]

Vera Baird: The Ministry of Justice, in line with other Government Departments, maintains and funds a communications capability and makes use of external communications services, including public relations services.

Since its establishment on 9 May, the Ministry of Justice has spent £3,113.75 on public relations to raise awareness of human rights.

Since it was set up in June 2003, its predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, or public bodies sponsored by the DCA, spent the following on public relations.

The Commission for Judicial Appointments (a non-departmental public body) engaged a PR firm to promote its views on the merits of the judicial appointments processes at the following cost:

	£
2003-04	44,478
2003-05	33,228
2003-06	45,173

Her Majesty's Courts Service contracted PR firms for the following initiatives:

2005-06: To provide communications for its estates strategy—£17,500

To raise public awareness of the legal status of cohabitation:

	£
2004-05	179,000
2005-06	180,000

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on her departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142497]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice has not assessed the merits of using British sign language videos on either its corporate website, www.justice.gov.uk, or on its corporate intranet. However, the website has been fully tested for usability and accessibility and it conforms to the web accessibility initiative AAA standards. The website has been user-tested by disabled employees to check that the site's functionality and content can be effectively accessed via assistive technologies such as screen readers.

The Ministry of Justice has not received any requests to provide information in BSL via its corporate website. If however a request were received then, in line with our duties under DDA, we would consider the cost; the practicability and the extent to which presenting information via BSL video would overcome the barrier or disadvantage experienced by the disabled person.

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* women under 30 years and *(d)* men under 30 years were found guilty of causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs in each of the last 10 years. [143679]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of females and males, found guilty at all courts for the offence of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, for age group 10 to 30, and all ages in England and Wales, 1996 to 2005 which can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Females and males, found guilty at all courts for the offence of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, for age group 10 to 30, and all ages in England and Wales, 1996 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

Number

	Female		*Male*	
	10 to 30	*All ages*	*10 to 30*	*All ages*
1996	2	5	32	51
1997	3	5	33	57
1998	4	5	35	58
1999	2	5	22	41
2000	2	2	34	51
2001	2	2	28	49
2002	3	5	39	57
2003	2	4	29	56
2004	3	4	36	58
2005	3	5	35	61

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statute:
Road Traffic Act 1988 section 3A as added by the Road Traffic Act 1991 section 3 and amended by CJA 1993, section 67.

Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people were found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving in each of the last 10 years; and what the average sentence imposed was in each year. [145445]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the number of people found guilty at all courts under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 1 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 Sec 1 and CJA 1993 Sec 67 for the offence of causing death by dangerous driving can be viewed in the table.

Average custodial sentence length for persons sentenced (from the court proceedings database) for causing death by dangerous driving, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005 can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

The number of people found guilty at all courts under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 1 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 Sec 1 and CJA 1993 Sec 67 for the offence of causing death by dangerous driving in England and Wales, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

	Found guilty
1996	215
1997	205
1998	203
1999	173
2000	190
2001	227
2002	228
2003	233
2004	241
2005	255

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.

As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000.

Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought against and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were imposed on drivers in each police authority area using mobile telephones while driving in 2005. [144306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The data requested for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many drivers were convicted for drink-driving offences *(a)* directly related to an incident in which death or serious injury was occasioned and where the alcohol-related incapacity of the driver was judged to be the primary cause of the incident and *(b)* unrelated to any incident in which death or serious injury was occasioned, in each year from 1997 to 2006; [144857]

(2) how many of the drivers convicted for drink-driving offences in each year from 1997 to 2006 had previously been banned from driving for drink-driving offences while a ban was still current; [144858]

(3) how many drivers who had not previously held a full driving licence were convicted of drink-driving offences in each year between 1997 and 2006. [144910]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The specific information requested concerning individual circumstances of persons convicted is not recorded on the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many drivers were convicted of drink-driving offences in each year from 1997 to 2006; how many were repeat offenders; and how many of those repeat offenders had been convicted *(a)* twice, *(b)* three times, *(c)* four times and *(d)* more than four times. [144859]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 1997 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the table.

Information on repeat offenders of summary drink-driving offences is not identifiable.

2005 data will be available in the autumn of 2007; 2006 data will be available in 2008.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs [1]*, England and Wales, 1997-2004*

	Number of offences *Total findings of guilt*
1997	100,202
1998	93,116
1999	89,364
2000	85,829
2001	84,742
2002	90,488
2003	93,702
2004	96,238

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6). [Offences as a result of drink driving cannot be distinguished reliably from offences of drug driving].

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many drivers were breathalysed in each year between 1997 and 2006; how many tests were positive; and how many were subsequently confirmed as positive by blood testing. [144911]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The available information is given in the table for 1997 to 2004. Data for 2005 will be available later in the year. 2006 data will be available in 2008.

Information is not collected centrally on the number of positive tests subsequently confirmed by blood testing.

Screening breath tests by outcome, England and Wales

Thousand

Outcome	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Total number of tests	[1]800.3	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3	577.6
Number positive or refused	103.5	[2]102.3	[2]94.1	[2]94.6	[2]99.5	[2]103.5	[2]106.3	[2]103.0

[1] Following the introduction of new breath testing equipment in Greater Manchester in 1998, it became apparent that the total number of tests had been over-estimated in 1997 and adjustments were made.

[2] As from 1998 onwards, following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force annually and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving-related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result, in some cases, court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Breath Tests Statistical Collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Driving Under Influence: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people were convicted of drink driving offences in each London borough in each of the last five years. [144173]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Court Proceedings Database, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, does not identify convictions at London borough area level.

Driving Under Influence: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many convictions there were in each police authority in West Lancashire for the offence of drink driving in each year since 2001; and how many resulted in *(a)* a prison sentence, *(b)* mandatory disqualification from driving and *(c)* the maximum fine. [144814]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is available at police force area level only.

Data for 2001 to 2004 (latest available) for Lancashire police force area are provided in the following table.

Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Total findings of guilt at all courts and resultant custody, maximum fine imposed and disqualifications, for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within Lancashire police force area, 2001-04

	Total findings of guilt	*Of which: immediate custody[2]*	*Of which: maximum fine (£)*	*Of which: disqualified[3]*
2001	2,304	148	1,000	2,174
2002	2,599	159	2,500	2,465
2003	2,652	146	1,050	2,516
2004	2,706	125	2,000	2,570

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6). (Offences as a result of drink driving cannot be distinguished reliably from offences as a result of drug driving).

[2] Immediate Custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[3] Disqualifications given as a secondary disposal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement. This excludes cases where a defendant was disqualified under the penalty points or "totting up" system (s35 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988). S.35 R.T.O.A. data for specific offences at force area level are not sufficiently robust.

Notes:
1. Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000). None were issued within the force area for the years for which data are provided.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electoral Register

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of people whose names are entered on UK electoral registers are *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of the Irish Republic, *(c)* Commonwealth citizens and *(d)* European Union citizens. [144388]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not collected centrally. The Office for National Statistics is responsible for producing electoral registration figures, but they are not required to collect data on the nationality of people registered to vote.

Family Law: Legal Aid Scheme

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the total legal aid bill for family law cases was in each of the last four years. [145589]

Vera Baird: The information requested is shown in the following table. The corresponding figures relating to 2006-07 are not yet available.

	Total family legal aid (£ million net cash)
2003-04	493
2004-05	488
2005-06	536

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of fixed penalty notices issued in each of the last 10 years were paid in full within the 14 day deadline. [144152]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None of the fixed penalty schemes for which the Office for Criminal Justice Reform holds data has a 14 day deadline. The Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) scheme for on-street parking contraventions allows for notices to be paid within 28 days and the motoring offences Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) scheme requires payment within 28 days. The PCN scheme does however allow for a discount if payment is made within 14 days. Data on notices paid within this period are in the table below. The Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) scheme requires payment within 21 days.

Information relating to fixed penalty notices for environmental offences, for which there is a standard period for payment of fixed penalties, set in legislation at 14 days, is a matter for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Number and proportion[1] of Penalty Charge Notices issued and paid within 14 days[2], England and Wales[3], 1999[4]-2004

Million and Percentage

Penalty charge notices	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Penalty charge notices issued	4.0	4.7	5.3	6.4	7.1	7.7
Paid within 14 days[2]	1.6	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.7
Percentage[1]	40	40	45	44	46	48
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs[5]	10	26	45	62	84	99

[1] These percentages differ from those within the annual 'Motoring Offence etc.' statistical bulletin which are based on known outcomes.
[2] These notices must be paid within 28 days, but if paid within 14 days there is a reduction in the charge.
[3] The first Welsh local authority joined the scheme in 2004.
[4] Data for years prior to 1999 are unreliable.
[5] All London local authorities within the scheme are counted as one for this table.
Notes:
1. No local authority outside London was using Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) during 1995, but Winchester city council began issuing PCNs in 1996. Up to and including 2004 there are 90 local authorities outside London issuing PCNs.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrate data systems generated by local authorities. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collections processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Penalty Charge Notice Collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Haverigg Prison

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) if she will consider the possibility of further expansion of HMP Haverigg, following completion of the current expansion programme; [145609]

(2) what the maximum inmate capacity is of HMP Haverigg; what she expects the capacity of HMP Haverigg to be following the completion of the expansion programme; and how many inmates are housed at HMP Haverigg. [145610]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A further 1,500 places were announced by the Lord Chancellor on 19 June 2007 on top of the 8,000 already planned for delivery by 2012. We are currently investigating options for providing this further increase in capacity.

As of 25 May 2007, the operational capacity (total number of prisoners that can be held taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regimes) of HMP Haverigg was 568 and the population 562. The planned expansion scheme will provide an additional 64 places.

Haverigg Prison: Manpower

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many new staff she expects to be employed at HMP Haverigg as a result of the expansion programme; [145378]

(2) what the staff levels are at HMP Haverigg. [145379]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is expected that an additional 42.5 staff will be employed at Haverigg as a result of the expansion programme.

The current level of staffing at Haverigg is 336, including casual staff employed to supervise the new build work.

Haverigg Prison: Prisoners Release

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many inmates at HMP Haverigg will be eligible for early release under the recently announced measures. [145611]

Mr. Hanson: I estimate that around 2,500 prisoners per month will be eligible for release on an End of Custody Licence. This is a national figure. Data is not currently available to break down this number by prison establishment.

Judges: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what her estimate is of the savings from capping the employer contribution to the Judicial Pension Scheme at 14 per cent.; and if she will make a statement. [144271]

Ms Harman: No formal estimate has been made as there are no plans to cap the employer contribution to the Judicial Pension Scheme at 14 per cent.

Law Society Children Panel: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many children's panel solicitors are registered in West Lancashire; and how many were so registered in each of the last five years. [144815]

Bridget Prentice: The Law Society's Children Panel is maintained by the Law Society and is independent of Government. The Law Society has informed me that they do not keep records of members of the Children Panel in West Lancashire or historical data on different regions. However, they did inform me that there are currently 167 members in Lancashire as a whole.

Legal Aid

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was paid in legal aid in each region in each of the last five years. [142703]

Vera Baird: The following tables provide the information requested.

Legal aid expenditure on legal defence for proceedings in the Crown court, as paid directly by the court within circuit locations

£ million

Financial year	Midland and Oxford	Northern	North East	South East	Western	Wales and Chester
2001-02	60.0	74.1	52.7	203.3	37.3	22.9
2002-03	75.7	94.9	63.5	229.3	45.7	28.3
2003-04	95.1	94.8	71.7	251.6	51.2	29.7
2004-05	90.8	74.4	66.4	255.3	60.7	26.5
2005-06	97.8	76.0	67.3	257.3	45.1	25.8

Legal aid expenditure on legal defence for proceedings in the Crown court paid under high cost case contracts with the Legal Services Commission's (LSC) by LSC regions (cases expected to last more than 40 days at court)

£ million

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4
2002-03	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
2003-04	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.0	1.6
2004-05	6.3	3.6	0.9	2.4	1.7	8.8
2005-06	6.1	5.4	1.4	1.3	3.8	7.6

£ million

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North Western	North East	East Midlands	Unknown region[1]
2001-02	0.7	4.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	2.0
2002-03	0.9	7.4	0.5	0.0	0.1	4.4
2003-04	1.6	12.8	3.4	0.1	0.3	14.1
2004-05	4.8	48.7	13.6	0.1	3.3	2.1
2005-06	10.3	49.6	15.8	0.1	1.8	0.0

[1] Not all expenditure by the LSC can be attributed to regions based on the location of the legal service provider in criminal matters where the expenditure is for advice and representation provided by barristers.

Legal aid expenditure on the provision of advice in criminal matters plus representation in the magistrates courts by location of the legal service providers' LSC region

£ million

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	49.0	48.5	29.1	27.2	26.5	37.7
2002-03	59.2	58.3	33.8	34.7	30.3	43.7
2003-04	60.4	61.3	35.5	36.1	29.2	44.7
2004-05	55.9	58.7	33.1	37.4	29.9	44.6
2005-06	53.0	58.4	33.4	36.6	27.3	42.5

£ million

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North Western	North East	East Midlands	Unknown region[1]
2001-02	13.8	101.2	49.5	21.1	32.3	1.5
2002-03	16.2	118.7	56.8	25.5	40.7	1.5
2003-04	16.4	115.8	60.5	25.6	40.1	1.7
2004-05	15.9	103.6	58.5	24.6	39.8	1.4
2005-06	13.3	110.8	55.4	22.4	39.9	1.0

[1] Not all expenditure by the LSC can be attributed to regions based on the location of the legal service provider in criminal matters where the expenditure is for advice and representation provided by barristers.

Legal aid expenditure for work in civil matters by location of legal service provider within LSC regions which includes work carried out under a legal aid certificate and may include representation in those matters that proceeded to court

£ million

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South West	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	54.9	116.3	78.0	73.9	48.2	88.2
2002-03	64.2	104.4	65.7	65.0	52.5	88.0
2003-04	57.3	91.1	50.9	61.6	62.3	77.2
2004-05	51.3	70.2	53.4	55.8	55.8	84.1
2005-06	53.0	47.9	53.3	58.9	58.1	67.2

£ million

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North West	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	81.1	177.5	90.9	35.9	64.0
2002-03	69.3	189.9	84.1	28.2	48.7
2003-04	67.5	196.7	78.7	30.7	45.7
2004-05	66.3	187.1	71.3	41.9	38.6
2005-06	75.3	214.2	70.3	63.7	41.8

Legal aid expenditure on legal help work in civil matters by location of the legal service supplier. This is work that is not carried out under a legal aid certificate and does not include representation at court

£ million

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South West	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	16.8	15.4	10.8	12.0	8.6	15.0
2002-03	21.0	19.4	13.8	15.1	10.9	19.6
2003-04	26.9	22.3	16.7	17.3	12.3	23.1
2004-05	25.2	21.4	15.4	25.4	11.9	20.6
2005-06	22.1	17.3	15.3	23.3	11.2	17.8

£ million

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North West	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	8.9	122.0	17.1	9.8	13.1
2002-03	10.2	156.8	21.3	13.5	17.3
2003-04	10.2	178.7	24.1	17.1	19.2
2004-05	10.1	141.8	23.6	16.4	15.6
2005-06	10.3	89.3	21.1	12.8	13.8

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people received legal aid in each region in each of the last five years. [142704]

Vera Baird: The following tables show the information requested.

Number of defendants represented in proceedings in the Crown court by Circuit in cases where legal aid is administrated by the court

Financial year	Midland and Oxford	Northern	North East	South East	Western	Wales and Chester
2001-02	26,000	23,000	22,000	49,000	13,000	9,000
2002-03	28,000	23,000	21,000	50,000	13,000	10,000
2003-04	31,000	23,000	21,000	49,000	14,000	10,000
2004-05	29,000	23,000	22,000	50,000	14,000	10,000
2005-06	29,000	23,000	22,000	52,000	14,000	10,000

Number of defendants represented in proceedings in the Crown court where the instructed solicitor firm was acting under a high cost case contract with the LSC (cases expected to last more than 40 days) based on the location of the legal service provider within LSC regions

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	0	0	1	4	0	2
2002-03	12	11	4	3	1	28
2003-04	51	31	12	32	41	108
2004-05	18	18	11	8	27	44
2005-06	24	73	5	20	7	44

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North Western	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	7	51	5	0	1
2002-03	17	71	39	2	3
2003-04	42	336	113	5	55
2004-05	56	167	63	1	10
2005/06	48	251	58	1	11

Number of claims received by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) by legal service providers for work carried out under the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) for legal advice and representation for proceedings up to and including the magistrates courts based on the location of the legal service provider within LSC regions

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	167,000	167,000	112,000	97,000	97,000	148,000
2002-03	179,000	184,000	125,000	110,000	102,000	163,000
2003-04	183,000	192,000	122,000	115,000	99,000	167,000
2004-05	170,000	186,000	118,000	116,000	92,000	156,000
2005-06	170,000	193,000	120,000	124,000	90,000	163,000

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North Western	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	49,000	234,000	178,000	90,000	113,000
2002-03	53,000	263,000	194,000	96,000	121,000
2003-04	53,000	267,000	200,000	97,000	123,000
2004-05	49,000	265,000	187,000	86,000	115,000
2005-06[1]	46,000	281,000	193,000	88,000	120,000

[1] 2005-06 also includes cases provided under the CDS Direct Scheme based on the location of the client.

Number of new matters started within for legal help in civil categories of law by location of the service provider within LSC regions

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	66,000	64,000	52,000	48,000	49,000	74,000
2002-03	70,000	67,000	59,000	52,000	51,000	75,000
2003-04	63,000	60,000	56,000	47,000	49,000	68,000
2004-05	57,000	57,000	51,000	47,000	46,000	59,000
2005-06	66,000	64,000	57,000	53,000	53,000	65,000

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North Western	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	44,000	196,000	84,000	51,000	59,000
2002-03	42,000	200,000	86,000	54,000	60,000
2003-04	37,000	168,000	72,000	49,000	53,000
2004-05	34,000	146,000	72,000	47,000	48,000
2005-06	38,000	158,000	75,000	55,000	50,000

Number of certificates issued in civil matters which may proceed to representation based on the location of the legal service provider within LSC regions

Financial year	West Midlands	South East	South West	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2001-02	13,000	9,000	15,000	13,000	10,000	6,000
2002-03	15,000	9,000	15,000	14,000	10,000	6,000
2003-04	14,000	9,000	15,000	12,000	10,000	5,000
2004-05	14,000	8,000	14,000	12,000	9,000	5,000
2005-06	15,000	8,000	14,000	12,000	9,000	5,000

Financial year	Merseyside	London	North West	North East	East Midlands
2001-02	50,000	18,000	9,000	10,000	8,000
2002-03	50,000	19,000	10,000	11,000	8,000
2003-04	49,000	18,000	9,000	11,000	9,000
2004-05	46,000	17,000	9,000	10,000	9,000
2005-06	46,000	17,000	10,000	10,000	9,000

Number of people helped through the CIS Direct Helpline since it started based on when the cases closed. The cases recorded under CIS Direct are by location of the client within LSC regions

	West Midlands	South Eastern	South Western	Eastern	Wales	Yorkshire and Humberside
2004-05 (July to March)	4,000	1,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
2005-06	8,000	5,000	3,000	8,000	5,000	5,000

	Merseyside	London	North West	North East	East Midlands	Unknown region[1]
2004-05 (July to March)	0,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
2005-06	1,000	10,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	16,000

[1] These figures are for cases not forming part of the five main categories of work dealt with by CIS Direct. A regional breakdown for these categories is not available.

Legal Aid Scheme: Wales

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many law firms in Wales have not signed new contracts with the Legal Services Commission. [145512]

Vera Baird: The unified contract for civil work was issued to 200 solicitors' offices in Wales. 196 contracts have been returned signed. 29 contracts were issued to not-for-profit organisations in Wales and all have been returned signed.

Legal Profession: Regulation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the Government's policy is on the provision of funding to cover the start-up costs of regulatory bodies overseeing the legal professions. [145411]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice will be making a contribution of £2.4 million towards the implementation costs, the legal profession should fund the start up costs associated with establishing the proposed Legal Services Board and the Office for Legal Complaints. Legal service providers enjoy exclusive access in the provision of reserved legal services, which often leads to the commission of ancillary legal

services. In addition the professions stand to benefit from the increased consumer confidence that these reforms will generate. It is, therefore, totally appropriate that they should meet both the implementation and running costs associated with legal services reform.

Magistrates: Wales

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many magistrates are employed in courts in Wales; how many of those are expected to leave the magistracy in 2007-08; and how many magistrates her Department expects to recruit to courts in Wales in 2007-08. [145511]

Ms Harman: At the financial year ending 31 March 2007, there were 1,949 serving magistrates throughout Wales.

During the financial year 2007-08, 50 magistrates are due to retire throughout Wales. An unknown number of magistrates are expected to leave due to other reasons such as resignation, transfer etc.

During the financial year 2007-08, it is expected that 82 magistrates will be recruited throughout Wales. This is based on predicted business need.

Miscarriages of Justice: Pensions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what steps have been taken by the Government to check whether pursuant to section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 the Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice has notified the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data of applicants for compensation; [144335]

(2) what resources have been *(a)* sought by and *(b)* paid to the Assessor for compensation for miscarriages of justice in relation to his obligations to notify the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data of applicants for compensation; [144336]

(3) what assessment of Lord Brennan's knowledge of the content and principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 and his compliance with his obligations under that Act was made as part of the re-appointment procedure conducted in 2006. [144237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lord Brennan, the independent Assessor of compensation for miscarriages of justice, acts on behalf of the Secretary of State in making assessments of compensation. The Ministry of Justice's notification to the Information Commissioner covers personal data processed by him and staff of the Office of Criminal Justice Reform. No resources have, therefore, been sought by or paid to Lord Brennan in this context. His knowledge of the Data Protection Act 1998 was not a criterion used in the consideration of his re-appointment It is a matter of fact, however, that in his private practice Lord Brennan is registered with the Information Commissioner as a data controller.

Police Custody

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the range is of the nightly cost of police cells used by her Department and the Prison Service; and which such cells are the most expensive. [144968]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The estimated average cost of holding a prisoner in a police cell is £385 per night. Actual cost depends on the size of the units made available, the length of time they are required and any additional costs incurred. Police forces invoice NOMS for the use of police cells in arrears. Not all invoices have yet been received and so the full range of costs is not yet known.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the recommended ratio is between staff and inmates in HM Prison Service. [145380]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no one recommended ratio. Staff to prisoner ratios are determined by a range of factors including type and geography of the establishment; type and mix of prisoners and security and control issues.

Prison Service: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice at what age a prison officer is allowed to draw his or her full pension. [144273]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, the normal pension age is 60, but for prison officers with reserved rights under the 1987 'Fresh Start' Agreement, the pension age is 55.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many inmates have absconded from prison in each year since 1997, broken down by individual prison. [145824]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation.

Absconds from open prisons in England and Wales (1997-98 to 2006-07)

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Askham Grange	35	17	20	21	19	12	31	12	14	7
Drake Hall	122	134	94	39	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sutton Park	5	3	3	3	3	0	1	2	4	2
Ford	53	40	68	57	57	91	142	110	96	62
Moorland	77	80	36	34	50	56	68	73	49	41
Hewell Grange	40	17	32	20	15	23	31	24	24	13
Holkeley Bay	13	25	11	24	8	14	36	32	16	21

Absconds from open prisons in England and Wales (1997-98 to 2006-07)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Kirkham	234	202	171	169	163	208	213	120	74	54
Latchmere House	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leyhill	20	25	34	25	19	33	114	102	66	37
Morton Hall	20	15	23	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Sea Camp	25	32	27	24	36	34	79	33	49	48
Norwich	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	2	2
Prescoed	7	13	19	14	5	8	35	19	9	9
Spring Hill/Grendon	20	9	14	14	12	23	60	36	34	11
Standford Hill	35	40	43	29	37	83	89	39	58	38
Sudbury	81	75	63	69	81	68	75	77	76	78
Thorn Cross	168	135	147	110	135	152	130	90	105	82
Wealstun	48	70	72	105	79	101	144	74	28	46

Prisoners Release: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether her recent announcement about the early release of prisoners who are coming to the end of their sentences on licence extends to Northern Ireland. [145750]

Mr. Hanson: The announcement made on 19 June does not apply to prisoners in Northern Ireland, which remains the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Prisoners Release: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners set to be released under the new release scheme have residential addresses in the Ribble Valley. [145960]

Mr. Hanson: I estimate that around 2,500 prisoners per month will be eligible for release on an End of Custody Licence. This is a national figure. Data is not currently available to break down this number by area.

Prisons: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Government budgeted to spend on the construction of new prisons in 2006. [145533]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Service had an overall budget for increased prison places in 2006-07, including places in existing prisons. £35.7 million was spent in 2006-07 in respect of potential new prisons.

Probation: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent on probation services in each year since 1997; what expenditure is expected for the forthcoming financial year; and how much of this spending *(a)* was and *(b)* will be dedicated to (i) mental health services, (ii) substance abuse rehabilitation services and (iii) vocational education in each of these years. [144165]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Expenditure on probation services is as follows:

	Resource	£ million Capital
2007-08	976	15
2006-07	959	11
2005-06	872	32
2004-05	793	29
2003-04	742	38
2002-03	641	40
2001-02	595	34
2000-01	539	16
1999-2000	491	23
1998-99	466	22
1997-98	464	17
1996-97	467	22

The financial data includes probation boards, National Probation Directorate and latterly National Offender Management Service HQ.

Comparisons over a long period of time are difficult due to machinery of government changes and accounting changes.

After adjusting for organisational changes, accounting changes and inflation, the real terms increase in the Resource budget from 1996-97 to 2006-07 is about 70 per cent.

Expenditure is not recorded in the categories requested under (i), (ii) and (iii).

Notes:

All figures exclude electronic monitoring.

Financial data for 2006-07 is subject to audit and for 2007-08 is planned expenditure.

Rape: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the average sentence handed down by courts in Wales for rape was in each of the last three years; [145456]

(2) what the average sentence handed down by courts for rape was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each of the regions in each of the last three years. [145457]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested, for the years 2003 to 2005, is contained in the following table.

Information for 2006 will be published in the autumn.

Average custodial sentence length for rape offences[1], all courts, England and Wales, 2003 to 2005

Region	Average sentence length[2] Rape of males and females
2003	
North East	89.4
North West	88.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	86.3
East Midlands	90.0
West Midlands	83.3
East of England	86.7
London	87.1
South East	79.4
South West	86.1
Total England	86.3
Wales	88.9
2004	
North East	85.1
North West	89.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	84.2
East Midlands	87.5
West Midlands	79.0
East of England	77.9
London	83.2
South East	79.1
South West	90.1
Total England	84.0
Wales	90.7
2005	
North East	84.2
North West	88.2
Yorkshire and Humberside	80.0
East Midlands	77.5
West Midlands	80.2
East of England	76.9
London	85.3
South East	85.6
South West	70.1
Total England	81.8
Wales	79.3

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Months, excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice.

Security Measures

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, by how much court capacity has been expanded to deal with existing and anticipated case load relating to terrorism; and how much further expansion is planned. [144389]

Ms Harman: I can confirm that a review is currently taking place on the capacity of the courts to deal with existing and anticipated case load relating to terrorism. The review includes a security upgrade programme of appropriate existing courts, which is already in progress and feasibility studies which have been commissioned to look at any additional court capacity which may be required in the future.

Sexual Offences: Wales

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of sexual offences in Wales (i) in total and (ii) broken down by offence in each of the last three years. [145459]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of people proceeded against and found guilty of sexual offences in Wales, by offence class, 2003 to 2005 is in the following table.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for all sexual offences, broken down into Offence Class, in Wales, 2003 to 2005[1,2]

	Proceeded against			Found guilty		
Offence class	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Buggery	7	3	3	2	2	1
Indecent assault on a male	26	26	10	12	10	5
Indecency between males	2	—	—	2	—	—
Rape	85	121	92	25	32	22
Indecent assault on a female	138	159	151	71	77	79
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13	3	17	18	2	2	7
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16	6	20	38	9	9	21
Incest	1	2	8	—	2	4
Procuration	—	2	—	—	2	—
Bigamy	1	1	-	1	1	—
Soliciting by a man	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sexual offences with person with mental disorder	—	1	1	—	—	2
Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation	—	—	2	—	—	2
Abuse of Trust—sexual offences	25	32	22	22	27	20
Gross indecency with a child	13	16	18	16	9	11
Miscellaneous Sexual Offences	—	17	38	—	9	27
Total	308	417	401	162	182	201

[1]These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2]Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Supreme Court

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 60-62WS, on the Supreme Court, how much will be spent on *(a)* professional adviser fees and *(b)* the non-capital element of the fit out costs, including (i) loose furniture, (ii) IT services and (iii) library books. [145843]

Vera Baird: As mentioned in the written ministerial statement, 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 60-62WS, the set-up costs related to the Middlesex Guildhall are expected to be an additional £14.3 million. These costs will be spread over the five years of the programme and are broken down as follows;

Breakdown of Supreme Court set up costs

	£ million
Resource costs	
Furniture and artwork	3.4
IT costs	2.6
Decant	1.0
Library	0.3
	7.3
Non construction capital costs	
Professional and statutory fees	6.2
Surveys	0.4
Furniture removal	0.1
s106 costs	0.1
IT (broadcast and server)	0.2
Total	14.3

Terrorism: Greater London

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the Government is reviewing the cap placed on the level of compensation which victims of the 7/7 bombing may gain from public funds; and if she will make a statement. [145448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Victims of the 7/7 bombings and other terrorist incidents in Great Britain are eligible for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme on the same basis as other blameless victims of other violent crime in Great Britain.

In its Green Paper "Rebuilding Lives: supporting victims of crime", the Government sought views on a range of proposals for reforming the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. One of the questions on which views were sought was whether the maximum award limit of £500,000 should be increased.

Reform of the Scheme is a complex matter. We are considering the issue carefully and will make an announcement in due course.

Young Offenders

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the purpose was of the visit undertaken by *(a)* the governor of HM Young Offender Institution Feltham and *(b)* the Deputy Head of Women and Young People's Directorate to Australia in November 2005; and if she will make a statement. [139567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) private visit

(b) private visit

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 25 June 2007

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Charities

David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the charities other than the Smith Institute which have organised events at No. 11 Downing Street since 1997 has used it most frequently. [144012]

John Healey *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* Many charities have used No. 11 on multiple occasions. Any charities who use or want to use 11 Downing Street can apply for more extended access if this is their wish and subject to availability.

Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* value, *(b)* date and *(c)* purpose was of each payment made by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies to Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in each year since 1997. [144542]

John Healey: The Treasury has no record of having made any payments to Abbott Mead Vickers since 2002-03, when a new accounting system was introduced. Information prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate cost. None of the Department's agencies has any record of payments having been made since 1997.

Accommodation Rule

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue was received from the available accommodation rule in the last full year before its abolition; and what estimate he has made of revenue which would have been received if the rule had applied in 2006-07. [145040]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated revenue was published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 1993, in table 4.1—Direct effects of Budget measures. No more current estimates are available.

Aggregates Levy: Wind Power

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much aggregates levy was raised from the construction of wind farms in the latest year for which figures are available. [145885]

John Healey: This information is not available; as revenue from this source is not separately identified in aggregates levy returns.

Al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which aspects of the financial arrangements relating to the Al-Yamamah defence contract fell to be approved by his Department since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [144254]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury's involvement was concerned with the accounting and budgeting arrangements for the management fee received by the Ministry of Defence from the Saudi Arabian Government. The fee covers the costs of the UK Government's involvement in the Al-Yamamah programme. The Treasury reviews such arrangements to ensure that they are in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting.

Birth Rate

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many live births there were in each English region in each year since 1997. [144287]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many live births there were in each region of England in each year since 1997. (144287)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The accompanying table shows numbers of live births in England by Government Office Region for the years 1997 to 2006.

Live Births by Government Office Region[1] in England 1997 to 2006

Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	29,404	28,720	27,739	26,499	25,949	26,271	27,005	27,815	28,249	29,184
North West	82,934	81,179	79,065	76,675	75,201	74,641	77,847	81,164	81,722	84,155
Yorkshire and Humber	60,400	59,683	58,212	55,966	55,625	55,535	57,923	60,193	60,665	62,953
East Midlands	48,518	48,339	47,035	45,787	44,642	45,039	46,916	48,245	49,080	50,717
West Midlands	66,695	65,035	63,466	61,497	60,818	61,035	63,694	65,911	65,956	67,688
Eastern	64,788	64,386	62,685	61,186	60,090	60,171	62,711	64,250	64,687	66,864
London	105,587	105,304	105,545	104,695	104,162	105,603	110,437	113,679	116,019	120,883

Live Births by Government Office Region[1] in England 1997 to 2006

Government Office Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
South East	95,399	95,642	93,646	90,445	88,510	88,082	91,842	93,634	93,921	98,529
South West	54,477	53,823	52,075	50,076	48,747	49,332	51,476	52,293	52,729	54,706
Total England	608,202	602,111	589,468	572,826	563,744	565,709	589,851	607,184	613,028	635,679

[1] Births are assigned to Government Office Region according to the usual residence of the mother at the date of the birth, as stated at registration.
The table excludes a small number of live births occurring in England each year to mothers whose usual residence was outside England and Wales.
Source:
Key Population and Vital Statistics, Series VS nos. 23-32. 2006 data from Table 5 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408 .

British Corps

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 462W, on the British Corps, whether the Chancellor's announcement on the British Corps referred to the work of the Russell Commission and charity V. [144520]

Dawn Primarolo: Yes. On 31 January 2005, the Chancellor gave a speech at the HM Treasury Volunteering Conference, referring to consideration of a new British corps, which trailed the expected outcomes of the Russell Commission report on youth action and engagement. The Russell Commission reported in March 2005 and the Government endorsed the recommendations in Budget 2005. V was established in May 2006 to take forward the recommendations.

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the net effect on annual Treasury revenues of abolishing taper relief for capital gains tax. [144567]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the cost of capital gains tax taper relief for individuals and trusts for 2005-06 and 2006-07 on an accruals basis were published in Table A3.1 of the Budget Report 2007. The figures exclude any behavioural change caused by the abolition of taper relief.

Cash Dispensing: Fees and Charges

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at which locations in Wales free-of-charge ATMs are *(a)* installed and *(b)* yet to be installed under the free cash machines in low-income areas scheme. [145496]

Ed Balls: As I announced on 19 June, excellent progress has been made towards the goal of providing over 600 new free ATMs across 1,707 low-income target areas identified by the ATM working group as lacking convenient access. I am pleased to say that of the 198 low-income target areas in Wales, 95 are now expected to benefit from convenient access to free cash withdrawals as a result of free new cash machines already in operation or under contract to be installed. I have made available specific details about the location of new free ATMs installed and outstanding target areas still requiring free ATMs in Wales in the Library of the House.

Cash Dispensing: North East Region

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his working group has taken on the super output areas identified by the Treasury Committee as not having access to free cash machines in Newcastle East and Wallsend. [145071]

Ed Balls: As I announced on 19 June, the industry has made excellent progress towards the goal of providing over 600 new free ATMs across 1,707 target areas identified by the ATM working group as lacking convenient access. I am pleased to say that two new machines are now under contract for installation in East Newcastle and Wallsend. These are expected to provide all the super output areas within East Newcastle and Wallsend with convenient access to free cash withdrawals. I will be writing to my right hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend shortly with further details about the new machines.

Census

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what new information attributes the 2007 Census Test is collecting on *(a)* individuals and *(b)* their properties. [145236]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what new information attributes the 2007 Census Test is collecting on (a) individuals and (b) their properties. (145236)

The questions being asked in the Test are the result of wide consultation with users of Census statistics. Census data is of crucial importance for local and national planning and resource allocation. The Office for National Statistics seeks to prioritise the competing user needs and develop questions which are acceptable to the majority of respondents. The Test provides the opportunity to test new and updated questions, and the Test questions are not necessarily those which will be included in the Census in 2011.

Those topics or questions which are new for the Census Test are:-

a) Individuals

Q4 Expanded marital status question to include civil partnership

Q8 Month and year of entry into UK;

Q10 Nature of long standing health condition;

Q12 National identity;

Q15 Language Proficiency;

Q16 Frequency of use of Welsh (in Wales only);

Q17 Second Residence;

Q18 Type of Second Residence;

Q19 Time spent at second residence;

Q28 Sources of income;

Q29 Income.

b) Properties

H6 Accommodation type has an additional response option for 'linked by garage'.

H10 State of Repair

The Census Test is about much more than testing of questions. The key aims of the Census Test are to:

assess the feasibility of the major innovations in the proposed 2011 Census design;

assess the effectiveness of new address questions and residence definitions to capture multi-residence information:

further advance understanding of the drivers of, and barriers to, public response, in particular to assess the effect on response of the inclusion of a question on income and the use of post-out to deliver questionnaires;

assess the effectiveness of different enumeration approaches in maximising response for different population and area types;

develop a detailed understanding of the requirements of business systems to support the census operation and the interfaces between them;

assess the performance of alternative suppliers as part of the procurement of services for the 2011 Census;

develop effective ways of working with local authorities to improve the enumeration process.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was paid in child benefit to parents in respect of children living abroad in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [144211]

(2) how many applications for child benefit were received in respect of children living overseas in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [144212]

(3) how much was paid in child tax credit to parents in respect of children living overseas in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [144213]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) by my right. hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for child tax credit were received by the international claims processing section of HM Revenue and Customs in respect of children living abroad in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [144214]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Children: Death

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many deaths there were following recorded injuries of children aged *(a)* 0 to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years which took place (i) in the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or other place where sporting activities occur, (v) in public parks and (vi) in other places in each year since 1997; [144259]

(2) how many deaths there were following recorded injuries of children aged *(a)* 0 to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; [144262]

(3) how many deaths there were of children aged *(a)* zero to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997. [144278]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your four recent questions about deaths of children listed here:

How many deaths there have been following recorded injuries of children aged (a) 0 to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years which have taken place (i) in the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or other place where sporting activities occur, (v) in public parks and (vi) in other places in each year since 1997; (144259)

how many deaths there have been following recorded injuries of children aged (a) 0 to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; (144262)

how many fatalities there were of children aged (a) zero to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; (144278)

how many fatalities there were of children aged (a) zero to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years where the cause of death occurred in (i) the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or similar space where sporting activities occur, (v) public parks and (vi) other places in each year since 1997. (144277)

Not all of the information you requested exists. The Office for National Statistics does not collect information on recorded injuries but does collect data on all registered deaths, including those with an underlying cause of injury, categorised by coroner's verdict—accident, intentional self-harm, homicide, and injury of undetermined intent. Information on place of occurrence of death is collected at registration for all deaths.

However, information on place of occurrence of the cause of death (i.e. where the person was when they were injured or became ill) is only collected on coroner's certificates of cause of death after inquest for deaths from injury and poisoning with a verdict of accident (including misadventure). The coroner is asked to select one often pre-specified categories of 'place where the accident occurred'.

The place of accident is then coded by ONS according to the revision of the International Classification of Diseases in use at the time (Ninth Revision 'ICD-9' from 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision 'ICD-10' since 2001). 'Home' and 'place of sport or recreation', are specified categories in both revisions, but school and hospital are not. They are subsumed in much larger categories: both are in 'public building' in ICD-10, but hospital was classified in 'resident institution' in ICD-9. Place of occurrence of injury is not coded in the same way for deaths from transport accidents, but the vast majority of these are motor vehicle accidents, and for most the place of accident would be street or highway. We have shown transport accidents separately in attached tables.

The tables below show the number of deaths in children by age group for all deaths, and deaths with a coroner's verdict of accident by place of occurrence of accident, between 1997 and 2005 in England and Wales.

Table 1: Number of deaths in children by age group from all causes and deaths with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] England and Wales, 1997-2005[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All deaths									
0 to four[3]	4,509	4,347	4,326	3,958	3,828	3,678	3,892	3,734	3,760
Five to eight	356	344	316	301	313	285	274	251	230
Nine to 12	381	344	344	342	284	308	306	273	274
13 to 16	625	587	537	502	570	562	506	516	485
Accidental deaths									
0 to four[4]	138	147	141	118	117	104	115	97	88
Five to eight	69	42	60	50	47	46	40	25	32
Nine to 12	100	90	84	83	56	61	49	59	46
13 to 16	198	163	149	160	177	142	140	150	148

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E928 for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (LCD-10) codes V01-X59, Y40-Y84from 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Includes neonatal deaths, (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life).
[4] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not known for these deaths.

Table 2a: Number of deaths in children by age group with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] by place of occurrence of injury, England and Wales, 1997-2000[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000
At home				
0 to four[3]	70	81	85	68
Five to eight	10	7	10	12
Nine to 12	13	16	11	13
13 to 16	26	24	21	23
Place for recreation and sport[4]				
0 to four[3]	0	0	1	2
Five to eight	5	1	3	0
Nine to 12	3	4	5	1
13 to 16	5	2	3	4
Public building[5]				
0 to four[3]	1	1	0	0
Five to eight	4	2	0	1
Nine to 12	0	1	1	0
13 to 16	1	2	2	1
Other specified and unspecified place[6]				
0 to four[3]	22	21	27	17
Five to eight	9	6	7	9
Nine to 12	13	13	10	14
13 to 16	25	26	14	21
Transport accidents[7]				
0 to four[3]	45	44	28	31
Five to eight	41	26	40	28
Nine to 12	71	56	57	55
13 to 16	141	109	109	111

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E850-E928.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not known for these deaths.
[4] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code. 0.
[5] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code. 4 and includes public park and playground, including school playground.
[6] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code .6.
[7] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E880-E848.

Table 2b: Number of deaths in children by age group with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] by place of occurrence of injury, England and Wales, 2001-05[2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
At home					
0 to four[3]	66	59	69	55	48
Five to eight	11	15	8	6	9
Nine to 12	9	13	16	9	12
13 to 16	25	24	19	18	12
Sports and athletics area[4]					
0 to four[3]	0	1	0	0	0
Five to eight	1	0	0	0	0
Nine to 12	1	3	0	0	0
13 to 16	5	0	2	1	0
School, other institution and public administrative area[5]					
0 to four[3]	0	1	0	1	1
Five to eight	0	0	1	0	0
Nine to 12	1	0	0	0	1
13 to 16	2	0	2	0	1
Other specified and unspecified place[6]					
0 to four[3]	15	15	23	19	14
Five to eight	2	6	10	5	6

Table 2b: Number of deaths in children by age group with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] by place of occurrence of injury, England and Wales, 2001-05[2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nine to 12	5	7	4	9	7
13 to 16	24	19	20	14	33
Transport accidents[7]					
0 to four[3]	36	28	23	22	25
Five to eight	33	25	21	14	17
Nine to 12	40	38	29	41	26
13 to 16	121	99	97	117	102

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes WOO-X59, Y40-Y84.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not known for these deaths.
[4] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code . 0.
[5] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code .3 and excludes public park and playground.
[6] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code .2.
[7] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-V99.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the funds allocated to the Scottish Executive for council tax benefit will continue to be made available for the equivalent purpose to the Scottish Administration if the Administration moves ahead with plans to replace council tax. [145221]

Dawn Primarolo: Council tax benefit is a reserved matter.

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* road wheels and *(b)* measuring tapes the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 36 months; and what the cost has been. [143645]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows.

(a) Measuring Road Wheels—36 at a cost of £2,934

(b) Measuring Tapes—111 at a cost of £1,075

Cox Review

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to implement the five key recommendations of the 2005 Cox Review. [143987]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are working closely with the Design Council to ensure that the five key recommendations of Sir George Cox's Review of creativity in business are implemented effectively. Good progress is being made in all five areas:

Raising the awareness, understanding and performance by making widely available a Design Programme for Business—Regional Development Agencies are committed to implementing the Design Council's Designing Demand Programme and a full roll out across UK regions is expected by end 2007-08. The programme has already been rolled out in South Yorkshire, South East and West Midlands.

Educating the next generation of business leaders, creative specialists and engineers while in higher education—The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is appraising applications from six Higher Education Institutions to act as Centres of Excellence for the development of multidisciplinary courses. In May 2007 HEFCE awarded funding towards £5.8 million for the first centre of excellence, in London. Design-London at RCA-Imperial will create an 'innovation triangle' between design (represented by the Royal College of Art), engineering and technology (represented by Imperial College Faculty of Engineering) and the business of innovation (represented by Imperial's Tanaka Business School).

Improving effectiveness of R and D Tax credits—Specialist units within HMRC launched in November 2006 are improving the consistency and certainty for firms claiming the R and D tax credit. Furthermore, in Budget 2007 the Government announced that it intends to increase the support available under R and D tax credits. The rate of relief for large companies will increase to 130 per cent. of qualifying R and D expenditure. In the case of the SME R and D tax credit scheme, the rate of relief will increase to 175 per cent. for companies claiming enhanced deductions against profits. The value of the payable credit available will remain broadly at its current value (24 per cent. of qualifying expenditure). The SME credit will also be extended to companies with 250-500 employees. Changes to the SME scheme are subject to State Aid clearance by the European Commission.

Raising the profile of the UK's creative capabilities through a network of Centres of Creativity across the UK—A feasibility study by the London Development Agency (LDA) concluded that there is a strong case for an International Design-Business Exchange to act as an international market place for design led innovation, ideas and expertise. The Design Council is working with the LDA on how a prototype programme might operate.

Maximising the power of public sector procurement by encouraging more imaginative solutions from suppliers—The Office of Government Commerce is leading on this recommendation and there has been positive activity on early procurer engagement with suppliers, simplifying pre-qualification and forthcoming guidance on finding and procuring innovative solutions.

Crown Estate: Research

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of applications made to the Crown Estate's Research Committee for research proposals in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; how many applications were made for funding; what the value of research funding allocated was; and how many applications were successful in each of those years. [140471]

John Healey: The Crown Estate does not invite open applications for research, rather, areas of research are decided by the Crown Estate through discussions with industry.

The figures for research funding are:

		£000
	2004-05	*2005-06*
Scottish Aquaculture Research Fund	100	100
Aquaculture Research Fund	100	196
Offshore Research Fund	97	120

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

It has been drawn to my attention that the answer given by the former Financial Secretary on 14 September 2004, *Official Report*, column 1506W, was incorrect. The figures given in that answer were for applications for funding from the Communities and Renewables Fund which finances community projects in areas where there are marine renewable energy developments; and from the Marine Stewardship Fund, which funds community initiatives that further good management of the marine estate. These are not applications for research. As stated above, funding for research comes from the Scottish Aquaculture Research Fund, the Aquaculture Research Fund and the Offshore Research Fund.

The table includes the revised figures for 2004-05.

Debts: Developing Countries

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of money from the UK public purse which has been lost to vulture funds from aid paid *(a)* directly to other countries and *(b)* through the EU. [144267]

Ed Balls: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a statement on 10 May, setting out actions the Government are taking to tackle the problem of so-called vulture funds. As he made clear, we are deeply concerned by the extent to which aggressively litigating creditors deplete the resources of developing countries, that might otherwise be used for productive social expenditures and poverty reduction. We are also concerned that these creditors are free-riding on the efforts of the international community, including through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), to cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries.

Along with debt relief, the UK provides direct bilateral development assistance and multilateral development assistance, including through the EU, to the world's poorest countries. These countries also have other sources of revenue—not least from domestic taxation. In these circumstances, it is not possible for us to quantify a loss to the UK public purse. However, I share my hon. Friend's concern about the diversion of the limited resources of these countries away from productive social expenditures.

Defence: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the virements between different sections within *(a)* Request for Resources (RfR) 1: Provision of Defence Capability and *(b)* RfR 2: Conflict Prevention he (i) agreed and (ii) refused for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [145203]

Mr. Timms: Where HMT has approved virements within MOD RfRs they are listed in winter and spring supplementaries. These can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/estimates/psr_estimates_supplementary.cfm

Records of any virements that have been refused are not routinely retained.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144938]

John Healey: Information relating to 2005 and 2006 is given as follows:

Calendar year	*Number of trips by air*	*Total cost (£)*
2005	835	959,393
2006	753	1,052,232

Information for 2004 and the breakdown requested of flights by Ministers and officials are not available.

Since 1999, the Government have published annually a list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government have also published each year since 1995-96 the total annual cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139460]

John Healey: The cost of leasing buildings and office space for the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years is given in the following table:

					£000
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
HM Treasury	n/a	439	423	436	475
Debt Management Office	1,130	1,569	1,553	1,566	1,605
Office of Government Commerce	5,250	5,786	5,176	5,469	5,867
Office of Government Commerce—vacant residual estate holdings	9,385	4,018	3,553	1,403	1,379

Departments: Databases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the schema for his Department's Combined Online Information System database. [145201]

John Healey: I have arranged for a listing of the Combined Online Information System (COINS) dimensions to be placed in the Library. The listing provided sets out, in a readable form, the structures within which data are held on the database.

Information on public expenditure plans and outturn from the COINS database is provided to Parliament, and the public more widely, in the form of a range of publications. These publications, copies of which are held in the House of Commons Library, include:

Main Estimates

Budgets and Spending Reviews

Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) and

Departmental Reports

Departments: DVDs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which DVDs have been produced by his Department in the last 12 months; how many copies of such DVDs were produced; and what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* development, *(b)* production and *(c)* distribution of each DVD. [144563]

John Healey: In the last 12 months HM Treasury has produced one e-learning DVD as part of a pan government project for the National School of Government at a total cost of £50,000. There were 150 copies of this DVD produced.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144937]

John Healey: Light bulbs for the Treasury building are purchased by our PFI service provider. For details of the lighting in 1 Horse Guards Road, I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1841.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many memoranda of understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144464]

John Healey: The information requested is not retained centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which promotional items were produced by or for his Department in each of the last three years. [144571]

John Healey: The information requested is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advertising and marketing campaigns have been run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144629]

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [145911]

John Healey: For the costs of advertising in the past five years, I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) today. In addition to those costs, direct marketing spend by National Savings and Investments was as follows:

	£000
2002-03	5,968
2003-04	3,626
2004-05	6,471
2005-06	4,405
2006-07	3,422

National Savings and Investments' advertising and marketing campaigns promote their products, including Premium Bonds, Index Linked Savings Certificates, the Guaranteed Equity Bond and Children's Bonus Bonds, using Chick Smith Trott and OMD UK.

The main campaigns run by HM Revenue and Customs have been on self assessment, tax credits, the child trust fund, and the helpline for the newly self employed. The main agencies used have been MCBD, M and C Saatchi, and United London.

Departments: Ministerial Policy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 465W, on Departments: Ministerial policy advisers, what procedures govern the use of Government resources by his special advisers as part of his leadership campaign; [144962]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 465W, on Departments: Ministerial policy advisers, and the Cabinet Secretary's letter of May 2007, whether any costs of his leadership campaign have been *(a)* incurred and *(b)* reimbursed by his Department. [144977]

John Healey: All Treasury officials and advisers conduct is in line with the requirements of the Civil Service and Special Advisers' Codes. Special advisers'

involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers (available at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk), including paragraph 7 on the use of official resources, and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of the mobile phone bill for his departmental special advisers in each of the last two years. [144537]

John Healey: The Treasury's accounting records do not separate mobile phone costs from other telecoms costs, and costs incurred by special advisers are not recorded separately from the telecoms costs of civil servants.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145909]

Mr. Timms: The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive. My Department has a Concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive in place and I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145690]

John Healey: The percentage of staff in HM Treasury aged 60 and over is as follows:

Year (as at 1 April)	*Staff (percentage)*
2007	0.6
2006	0.2
2005	0.2

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145697]

John Healey: The number and percentage of new recruits in HM Treasury in the 55+ and 60+ age categories are contained in the following table:

	All recruits aged 55 to 59		*All recruits aged 60+*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	3	1	1	0.3
2005-06	3	0.9	1	0.3
2004-05	3	0.9	1	0.3

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its non-departmental agencies in each of the last five years. [139526]

John Healey: The information requested is in the following table.

£000

Departments/Agencies	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
HM Treasury[1]	126	210	151	3,151	231
Debt Management Office[2]	284	375	194	217	256
Office of Government Commerce	148	311	284	175 1	101
OGCbuying.solutions[3]			222	337	314
Government Actuary's Department	17	40	24	4	63
Valuation Office Agency[4]	145	238	617	247	150
HM Revenue and Customs[5]	16,300	14,400	15,200	22,400	14,700
Royal Mint[6]	—	—	—	—	—
National Savings and Investments[7]	3,953	1,705	3,802	10,596 1	8,368
Office of National Statistics[8]	825	516	491	364 1	518

[1] The Treasury's costs of £3,115,000 for 2005-06 include £3,032,000 relating to a media campaign for stakeholder savings and investment products.
[2] The DMO's costs include advertising the issuances of gilt-edged securities.
[3] Information for OGCbuying.solutions for 2002-03 and 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
[4] The VGA's 2004-05 figure includes £321,000 relating to the Summary Valuations Public Information Campaign.
[5] Figures shown for HM Revenue and Customs for the years prior to 2005-06 are the aggregate of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise.
[6] Figures for The Royal Mint have been excluded from the answer as they are commercially sensitive.
[7] National Savings and Investments costs for 2005-06 and 2006-07 include NS and I's television advertising campaign.
[8] Figures for the Office for National Statistics include promotion and publicity. Advertising could be disaggregated at disproportionate cost only.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145267]

John Healey: HM Treasury conducts an annual staff attitude survey and quarterly management surveys. Information relating to the costs of these surveys is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

EC Budget

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial contribution *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each other member state is expected to make to the European Union in 2008. [145546]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 398-400W, which gives an estimate of United Kingdom gross and net contributions to the EC Budget in 2008.

Updated calendar year estimates for the United Kingdom's contributions to the EC Budget will be published annually in the Government's 'European Community Finances' White Paper. The 2007 edition of this White Paper (Cm 7090) was published on 22 May 2007.

HM Treasury does not, as a matter of course, forecast the gross and net contributions of all the other member states as this is a matter for their respective Governments. Figures for the 2008 gross contribution of each member state will be included in the 2008 EC adopted budget which will be published in the European Commission's Official Journal, L (Legislation) series, in due course.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the UK contributed to the Central European Fund in 2006; and what the contributions made by other European member states were in that year. [145551]

Ed Balls: I am unaware of the Central European Fund. However, figures for the United Kingdom's gross contribution, after taking account of the UK abatement, to the EC Budget in 2006 can be found in Table 3 (page 47) of the European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 7090) published on 22 May 2007. European Commission estimates of all member states' gross contributions, after taking account of the UK abatement, to the 2006 EC Budget can also be found in this White Paper (Tables 2A (€ million), page 45, and 2B (£ million), page 46).

Employment: Graduates

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate is of *(a)* women and *(b)* men of (i) white, (ii) Afro-Caribbean and (iii) Asian ethnicity who graduated in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [145397]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the employment rates for (a) women and (b) men, who are of (i) Afro-Caribbean and (ii) Asian ethnicity who graduated in each of the last five years, (145397)

The attached table shows the working age employment rates by gender and ethnicity among the people who graduated with a degree in the years 2000 to 2004. These rates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for the twelve months period ending December 2005.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is particularly true for the employment rates of some ethnic groups.

Employment rates[1] for graduates[2] of working age[3] by ethnic origin, gender and year of graduation—United Kingdom

		12 months ending December 2005 (percentage)	
Year of graduation	*All persons*	*Men*	*Women*
2000			
White	93	95	91
Asian or Asian British[4]	91	98	83
Black or Black British[5]	96	100	91
2001			
White	94	94	94
Asian or Asian British[4]	85	88	81
Black or Black British[5]	69	87	59
2002			
White	91	93	89
Asian or Asian British[4]	78	84	71
Black or Black British[5]	73	83	67
2003			
White	85	84	86
Asian or Asian British[4]	82	68	95
Black or Black-British[5]	77	65	84
2004			
White	85	85	85
Asian or Asian British[4]	76	73	80
Black or Black British[5]	82	79	86

[1] Total in employment as a percentage of all persons in the relevant ethnic group.
[2] People whose highest qualification is degree level or above.
[3] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[4] Includes people of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin.
[5] Includes Black-Caribbean, Black-African and Black-other.
Source:
ONS Annual Population Survey (APS)

Employment: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in West Lancashire were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007; and how many were women in each case. [144973]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in West Lancashire were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ending (a) March 1997 and (b) March 2007; and how many were women in each case. (144973)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Estimates of the number of people in full-time employment, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, as well as all the other parliamentary constituencies in Great Britain, was provided in an Answer on 3rd May 2007 (Hansard: column 1806W-1807W, reference 135561).

There were 10,000 women, aged 16 and over, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, in full-time employment for the 12 month period ending in February 1997 based on data from the annual local area LFS. The corresponding estimate, for the 12 months ending in September 2006, the latest available data from the APS, was 11,000.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Employment: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Warrington residents were in employment *(a)* in April 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [145468]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many Warrington residents were in employment *(a)* in April 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available. (145468).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics from local areas from the annual local area labour force survey (LFS) and the annual population survey (APS) following international labour organisation definitions.

There ware 91,000 people., aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in the Warrington unitary authority, for the 12 months ending February 1997, from the local area LFS. There were 97,000 people aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in the Warrington unitary authority, for the 12 months ending September 2006, from the latest available data from the APS. The corresponding headline employment rates, for persons of working age (males aged 16:to 64 and females aged 16 to 59) are 75 per cent. for the 12 months ending February 1997 and 78 per cent. for the 12 months ending in September 2006.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

First-time Buyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to help more first-time home buyers. [145549]

John Healey: The Government recognise concerns over housing affordability, particularly amongst first-time buyers, and is acting to alleviate these pressures on various fronts including by tackling supply constraints; bringing forward public sector land for development; increasing the starting threshold for stamp duty land tax; building more social housing; and helping people into home ownership through supporting shared equity schemes. The Treasury is working with Departments across Government in support of this agenda.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate is of those who completed foundation degrees and did not go on to higher education in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [145396]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the employment rate for those who completed a foundation degree but did not go on to higher education in the last five years. (145396)

The attached table shows the working age employment rate for those who completed a foundation degree and did not go on to higher education. The table gives estimates for the three months to December in each year from 2004 to 2006. Information is not available prior to 2004. The data have not been seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rates[1] of people of working age[2] who have completed foundation degrees[3] and not continued with higher education, 2004 to 2006—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	All persons	*Men*	*Women*
2004	88	92	82
2005	90	92	87
2006	87	86	87

[1] Total in employment as a percentage of all people of working age who completed foundation degrees.
[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[3] Includes some people who after studying for a foundation degree, then went back to studying for a lower qualification or other vocational qualification.
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

HM Revenue and Customs: East Kilbride

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the local office of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is required to be able to give definitive advice to Arun *(a)* district council as grantor and *(b)* councillors as grantees on the tax position relating to the take-up of the £500 council grant for members towards the purchase of a personal computer

for council work; what targets the office has been set for technical experts returning calls; when the HMRC employers' Contact Us and Send An Email webpage will cease to display the message that an email service cannot be offered; when Arun district council will receive a response from HMRC East Kilbridge Glasgow office's compliance officers; if he will take steps to ensure that HMRC resolves the matter with Arun district council; and if he will make a statement. [144414]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has customer service targets across all of its main lines of business. For post, the target is to deal with 80 per cent. of correspondence within 15 days and 95 per cent. within 40 days. Since you asked your question HMRC has been in touch with Arun district council and the issue is being dealt with.

The HMRC website tells its customers the services which are available including the latest position on which services are offered by email. The website is updated regularly.

HM Revenue and Customs: Job Satisfaction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the morale of *(a)* tax credits staff and *(b)* all HM Revenue and Customs staff in (i) November 2006, (ii) May 2006, (iii) November 2005 and (iv) May 2005; what assessment he has made of trends in morale; and if he will make a statement. [144865]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC takes the morale and well-being of its staff very seriously. It conducts a staff survey twice a year, which questions a sample of all staff.

Results for surveys conducted in May and November 2005 and 2006 are published on the HMRC Internet at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/.

HM Revenue and Customs: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many post reductions there were in HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three financial years, broken down by grade. [144712]

Dawn Primarolo: The changes in numbers of staff in post by grade in HMRC since 1 April 2004 are shown in the following table.

	Full-time equivalent units in post (as at 1 April each year)				*Increase/(decrease) in year*		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
SCS	401	395	384	396	(6)	(11)	12
Grade 6	1,180	1,194	1,129	1,067	14	(65)	(62)
Grade 7	2,290	2,355	2,281	2,257	64	(74)	(24)
Fast Stream	156	196	707	652	41	511	(54)
Senior Officer	4,429	4,468	4,089	3,862	39	(379)	(226)
Higher Officer	12,249	12,479	11,282	10,719	231	(1,197)	(564)
Officer	24,905	25,152	23,551	22,161	247	(1,601)	(1,390)
Asst Officer	36,275	32,006	35,859	35,258	(4,269)	3,853	(602)
Admin Asst	16,484	18,828	13,607	12,564	2,344	(5,221)	(1,043)
Total	98,369	97,073	92,888	88,936	(1,296)	(4,185)	(3,953)

Figures for 2004-05 are based on the figures for HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue prior to the formation of HMRC.

The Department's staffing baseline at 1 April 2004 is now 97,755 after adjustment for machinery of government changes and changes in the definitions of published data.

HM Revenue and Customs: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on bonus payments made to senior civil servants in HM Revenue and Customs in 2006-07. [144713]

Dawn Primarolo: During 2006-07 bonus payments totalling £1,913,547 were made to senior civil servants in HM Revenue and Customs.

HM Revenue and Customs: Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts; and if he will make a statement. [144869]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC plans to lay its 2006-07 accounts before the House rises for the summer recess.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which years since 1996 the Comptroller and Auditor General has qualified his opinion of the Trust Statements of *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Inland Revenue; for what reason in each case; and if he will make a statement. [144903]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is available in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Certificate and Report on the Trust Statements which can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

HM Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what performance targets apply to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on the time taken to process claims for tax rebate from receipt of application to settlement of claim; what assessment he has made of recent levels of compliance with those targets; and what assessment he has made of the

compliance of HMRC, Centre 1, East Kilbride with the targets in the latest period for which figures are available. [144281]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs target is to deal with 97 per cent. of formal repayment claims, from customers outside PAYE or Self Assessment who have had tax deducted from investment income, within 15 days. All such repayment claims are now dealt with in HMRC's Leicester office and HMRC currently meets the published target. HMRC do not have specific targets in respect of repayment claims from other contact with customers.

Housing: Environment Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the budget is for the eco-towns programme; [145542]

(2) what funding his Department is providing for his proposed eco-towns programme. [145222]

John Healey: The Government are committed to delivering sustainable housing growth, and announced at Budget 2006 an ambition that all new homes would be zero carbon within a decade. The Department for Communities and Local Government have said they will consider plans for eco-towns put forward by local authorities. Funding for eco-towns and housing growth more generally is a matter for the Comprehensive Spending Review.

IBM

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who directed that Mr. Attwood and Mr. Bishop of Inland Revenue should undertake a review in August 1999 of the hon. Member for North Wiltshire's constituent Mr. Gerard Churchhouse's contribution to the transfer pricing review of IBM; and whether the report of the review still exists. [144042]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to HM Revenue and Custom's statutory duty of confidentiality it is not possible to comment on any aspect of IBM's affairs nor confirm whether any particular document exists.

Immigration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office for National Statistics has received from local authorities on the accuracy of the Government's immigration statistics; what funds he has made available to local authorities to deal with the demands of immigration; and on what formula such funds were distributed. [142367]

John Healey: HM Treasury and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have received representations from local authorities about the ONS's population estimates and population projections used in the local government finance settlements, some of which cover the estimation of the international migration component.

The ONS announced planned improvements to the methods for estimating the international migration component of local authority population estimates in August 2006.

The amount of money apportioned to all local authorities is based to a large degree upon the local population (including long-term migrants). The formula that Communities and Local Government use for apportioning this sum between individual local authorities can be found at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0607/grant.htm

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of people who will be subject to a higher marginal rate of taxation as a result of Budget 2007 in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10; and if he will make a statement; [131114]

(2) if he will estimate the number of people who will pay more income tax as a result of Budget 2007 in each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [131115]

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* whose income will be reduced by the abolition of the 10p income tax rate, broken down by gender, and *(b)* whose loss of income caused by the abolition of the 10p income tax rate will be made up by tax credits; [131290]

(2) how many taxpayers will see their tax bill increase as a result of the proposed abolition of the 10p starting rate; and how many of this group will have the tax increase covered *(a)* completely and *(b)* in part by increased eligibility for tax credits. [132415]

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of the abolition of the 10p tax band on an individual earning £10,000 per annum who is *(a)* in receipt of tax credits and *(b)* not in receipt of tax credits. [137865]

Ed Balls: In 2008-09, all 31 million taxpayers would have benefited from the 10p rate of income tax. Some 28 million of these taxpayers stand to gain from the cut in the basic rate of income tax to 20p.

As a result of the personal tax package changes in Budget 2007 as a whole, four in five households will be better off or see no change in household income. This means 21 million households will see their net tax payments fall or stay the same.

The final impact on individual families' living standards will depend upon final levels of wages, the national minimum wage, indexation and levels of benefits such as the child tax credit and the pension credit.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely net effect on annual Treasury revenues of a four pence reduction in the basic rate of income tax. [144566]

Dawn Primarolo: The Exchequer effect of a 4p reduction in the basic rate of income tax can be derived from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table 1-6.pdf.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of detached properties in (i) England and (ii) Wales which have a value above the inheritance tax threshold. [145235]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of detached properties in England with a gross value which exceeded £285,000 in 2006 is estimated at 1.9 million, or 41 per cent. of all detached properties in England. Only 27 per cent. of properties are detached, and overall only 18 per cent. of all properties were valued at more than £285,000. Corresponding figures for Wales are not available but 19 per cent. of sales of detached properties sold for prices over £285,000 in 2006.

In the same year only 6 per cent. of estates were liable to IHT. Budget 2007 announced that the IHT nil-rate band will increase to £350,000 in 2010-11; in addition, assets left to a surviving spouse or civil partner are completely exempt from IHT.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of hypothecating monies from inheritance tax to pay for an individual's care costs, with particular reference to cost of accommodation in a care home when an individual has an estate above the inheritance tax threshold. [145723]

Dawn Primarolo: No such assessment has been made.

The revenue raised from IHT, along with that from other revenues, funds essential public services that benefit the whole country.

Legal Services Bill

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Ministry of Justice on the impact of the Legal Services Bill. [145412]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with their ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Marginal Tax Rates

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of taxpayers with marginal deduction rates of over *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 70 per cent., *(c)* 80 per cent., *(d)* 90 per cent. and *(e)* 100 per cent. (i) in 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [131357]

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who in 2008-09 will have a marginal tax rate of *(a)* over 50 per cent., *(b)* over 60 per cent., *(c)* over 70 per cent., *(d)* over 80 per cent. and *(e)* over 90 per cent. [132122]

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people he estimates will face a marginal deduction rate of *(a)* over 60 per cent. and *(b)* over 70 per cent. following the tax and benefit changes in the Budget which take effect from April 2008. [139723]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the number of families facing marginal deduction rates above 60 per cent. are published in Budget 2007 Table 4.2.

Consistent with past practice, estimates of the number of families who may face marginal deduction rates above 50 per cent. in 2008-09 will be published in the 2007 pre-Budget report.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 9 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. and Mrs. Iqbal. [145739]

Dawn Primarolo: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Michael Ellam

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what date he expects Michael Ellam to cease employment in his Department; [144536]

(2) whether Michael Ellam has been a civil servant from 1 January 2007 to date. [144981]

John Healey: Michael Ellam has been a civil servant throughout his Treasury employment.

Ministerial Powers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the ministerial directions of which his Department has been notified since May 1997. [145200]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1910W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice).

Ministerial Residences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the costs of refurbishment of the flat above Number 10 Downing Street have been in financial year 2006-07. [111294]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 43W, which the Minister for the Cabinet Office gave the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois).

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the lengthening of the allowable period between MOT tests. [145125]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

National Debt

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of national debt is; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce it. [145552]

John Healey: The latest estimate of net debt can be found in the latest public sector finances data release, jointly published by HM-Treasury and the ONS on June 20 2007. This is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=805

The performance of fiscal policy is judged against the Government's two fiscal rules, the golden rule and the sustainable investment rule. The sustainable investment rule states that public sector net debt, as a proportion of GDP, will be held over the economic cycle at a stable and prudent level. Other things being equal, net debt will be maintained below 40 per cent. of GDP over the economic cycle. The Budget 2007 projections show that the Government are meeting both fiscal rules.

National Income: Public Holidays

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on gross national product of each bank holiday in the UK in 2006. [144570]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what estimate has been made of the effect on gross national product of (a) all bank holidays in the UK in 2006 and (b) each such bank holiday. (144570)

Most headline economic statistics are seasonally adjusted, so that the timing of bank holidays does not affect comparisons across months, quarters and years. The ONS does not however make any assessment of the impact of bank holidays on the level of economic activity.

Office of Government Commerce: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Office of Government Commerce spent on external consultants in each of the last five years. [136997]

John Healey: Information on OGC's administration costs consultancy spending in 2003-04 to 2006-07 is set out in table 7.4 of HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts, published on HM Treasury's website. In addition, in 2005-06, a further £3.45 million of programme consultancy costs were incurred as part of the OGC's Efficiency Challenge Fund work stream.

For 2002-03, information on OGC's own consultancy spend could be disaggregated from costs of services engaged on behalf of other bodies only at disproportionate cost.

PAYE

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many open Pay as You Earn cases there were at the end of each of the three last financial years; and if he will make a statement. [141463]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of open PAYE cases at the end of each of the three last financial years were:

	Million
2005	7.0
2006	12.2
2007	13.0

The number of open cases arising at the year-end has been increasing steadily because of increase in the number of employments in existence and changes in the pattern of employment.

Numbers have also increased in the last two years because of a delay in the processing of P14 information received from employers. This has now been resolved and HMRC are working hard to reduce the number of open cases. HMRC will reduce the number of open cases to 10.5 million by April 2008.

Pension Funds: Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the aggregate value of pension fund surpluses, as defined for tax purposes, on 1 July 1997 or the nearest available prior date; [141523]

(2) what the estimated value was of actuarial liabilities against which the £60 billion surplus referred to in the Inland Revenue's note to him of 27 May 1997 was measured; [141524]

(3) whether the estimated £60 billion actuarial surplus in all pension funds as estimated in the Inland Revenue's note to him of 27 May 1997 was *(a)* a net figure which included schemes reporting deficits and *(b)* a gross figure which excluded such schemes; [141525]

(4) what method was used to extrapolate the position of all pension schemes from the sample of 32 large pension schemes by the Inland Revenue in the memorandum addressed to him dated 27 May 1997. [141539]

Ed Balls: Advice to Ministers was published on 30 March 2007. Further details of the analysis underpinning advice to Ministers in 1997 beyond that which we have published are not held in electronic archives. Information on aggregate pension fund surpluses and actuarial liabilities was not held centrally.

Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely net effect on

total annual contributions to pension funds of the abolition of higher tax rate relief on pension contributions. [144565]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1371-72W.

Pensions: Public Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public sector pension schemes remain open to new workers up to 1 July 2007 with a retirement age of 60 years or less; and if he will make a statement. [144075]

Mr. Timms: Information on the pension ages currently applied in all public sector schemes is not held centrally, but the position as regards new entrants to the main schemes for which UK Government Ministers are responsible is:

Armed forces, police and firefighters pension schemes have pension ages of 60 or below, and age 65 for those with preserved pension rights. The lower pension ages in these schemes reflect the physical requirements of these occupations.

The NHS, teachers and the civil service pension scheme have been or are being reformed so that new entrants have a pension age of 65 from January 2007 for teachers, July 2007 for civil servants and a date to be finalised in 2008 for the NHS.

The local government pension scheme already had a pension age of 65.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made to the extent to which public sector pension reform since 2005 meets the criteria of *(a)* affordability, *(b)* fairness relative to the private sector and *(c)* fairness within the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [144077]

Mr. Timms: The Government view public service pensions as a key part of the remuneration package of public servants, aimed at attracting and rewarding the skills and professionalism required to maintain a high quality public sector work force. Like other employers, the Government have to manage the increasing pension costs associated with rising longevity. Public service pension schemes have been reformed or are undergoing reform in order to make them affordable and sustainable in future. Following the Public Services Forum agreement in 2005, the reforms being introduced in the three major unfunded public service pension schemes—the NHS, teachers and the civil service schemes—include increases in the normal pension age for new entrants and mechanisms that ensure that any future increases in cost will be shared fairly between employers and employees. In addition, there will also be an upper limit on the cost to the taxpayer, should costs increase.

Similar reforms have also been agreed in other public service schemes including the local government pensions scheme.

Expenditure on public service pension schemes as published in the latest Long Term Public Finance report (2006) is projected to be affordable and sustainable.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of public sector pensions in *(a)* cash terms, *(b)* real terms and *(c)* as a share of gross domestic product for each year from 2007 to 2058; and if he will make a statement. [144265]

Mr. Timms: Current estimates and future projections (until 2055-56) of public service pensions costs are available in the latest Long Term Public Finance Report (LTPFR) published in December 2006—also available at the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/0/pbr06_longtermpublicfinancereport_476.pdf)

A note by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) and HM Treasury on the assumptions used for the unfunded public service pension projections in the latest LTPFR is now available on the GAD website:

www.gad.gov.uk

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of reductions in public expenditure arising from public sector pension reform which will be made in respect of *(a)* existing staff and *(b)* new entrants; and if he will make a statement. [144266]

Mr. Timms: Savings estimates made at the time of the Public Services Forum agreement in 2005 on the reform of the three main unfunded pension schemes—the NHS, Teachers and the Civil Service Pension schemes—showed that over the next 50 years 85 per cent. of savings as a result of these reforms were expected to come from new entrants.

The assumptions on which the 2005 savings estimates were based have now been superseded. Moreover, these estimates did not take account of reforms that were agreed later, such as cost sharing between employers and employees and capping of employer contribution rates.

Scheme reforms are still being finalised, and scheme costings are being updated as part of the scheme valuation process. The latest valuations for the NHS pension scheme and the civil service pension scheme, for example, are due for publication by 2008. Updated savings estimates may be possible once the valuations are complete.

Personal Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with a household reference person aged *(a)* 16 to 20, *(b)* 21 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 30, *(d)* 31 to 40, *(e)* 41 to 50, *(f)* 51 to 60, *(g)* 61 to 65, *(h)* 66 to 75, *(i)* 76 to 85 and *(j)* over 85 had an income of (i) less than 80 per cent., (ii) less than 60 per cent. (iii) less than 40 per cent. and (iv) less than 20 per cent. of the median household income for such households in the last period for which figures are available; and how many adults live in such households in each case. [133834]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the 20 per cent. of median income threshold are not statistically robust as the sample sizes are too small.

The available information is in the tables.

Table 1: Number of households (million) below different thresholds of median income: 2005-06 before housing costs: by age-band of household reference person

Age-band of household reference person	*Below 80 per cent. of median income*	*Below 60 per cent. of median income*	*Below 40 per cent. of median income*
16 to 20	0.2	0.1	0.1
21 to 25	0.4	0.3	0.1
26 to 30	0.5	0.3	0.1
31 to 40	1.6	0.8	0.3
41 to 50	1.5	0.8	0.3
51 to 60	1.3	0.7	0.3
61 to 65	0.7	0.3	0.1
66 to 75	1.5	0.7	0.1
76 to 85	1.3	0.6	0.1
Over 85	0.3	0.1	0.0

Table 2: Number of adults (million) living in households below different thresholds of median income: In 2005-06: before housing costs: by age-band of household reference person

Age-band of household reference person	*Below 80 per cent. of median income*	*Below 60 per cent. of median income*	*Below 40 per cent. of median income*
16 to 20	1.0	0.6	0.2
21 to 25	1.0	0.6	0.2
26 to 30	0.8	0.4	0.2
31 to 40	2.5	1.2	0.4
41 to 50	2.3	1.2	0.4
51 to 60	1.9	1.1	0.5
61 to 65	1.1	0.5	0.2
66 to 75	2.2	1.0	0.2
76 to 85	1.8	0.8	0.2
Over 85	0.4	0.2	0.1

Note:
The information is based on OECD equivalisation factors and therefore it will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.
Source:
Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Personal Savings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average value of savings per person in each UK region in each of the last five years. [144581]

Ed Balls: The information requested is not available.

Public Expenditure: Surveys

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of all extant public expenditure survey (PES) papers; and if he will make it his policy to make PES papers publicly available on his Department's website. [145202]

Mr. Timms: Most Public Expenditure System papers containing standing guidance have been incorporated into the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, available on Treasury's website. Remaining extant papers generally contain time-limited guidance and are withdrawn as they become out of date.

I have arranged for copies of extant PES papers to be published on Treasury's website as soon as practically possible, and all future PES papers will likewise be published.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's unfunded public sector pension liabilities are if calculated using a discount rate based on index linked gilts; and what discount rate he uses for the calculation. [118104]

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the Government's total accrued liability in relation to public service pension schemes was as at March 2006; [127765]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the liabilities of public sector pension schemes for which he is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [140303]

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the total liabilities of unfunded public sector pension schemes as at 31 March 2006. [137977]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the liabilities of public sector pension schemes for which he is responsible. [140307]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when his Department plans to publish the latest estimates of public sector unfunded pension liabilities; and if he will make a statement; [141940]

(2) what the reasons are for the delay in the publication of the latest estimate of the cost of unfunded public sector pension liabilities; and if he will make a statement; [143622]

(3) what his estimate is of the total unfunded public sector pension liability as at 31 March 2006; and if he will make a statement; [144270]

(4) on what date his Department plans to release the *(a)* estimate and *(b)* analysis of the total liability of unfunded public service occupational schemes at (i) 31 March 2006 and (ii) 31 March 2007; and if he will make a statement; [144561]

(5) what discount rate the Government are using to calculate the net present value of public sector pension commitments; and if he will make a statement; [144575]

(6) what estimate he has made of the impact on the net present value of unfunded public sector pension schemes of changing the discount rate by 0.1 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [144693]

(7) what change in the discount rate for public sector pension schemes was made on 31 March 2007; and if he will make a statement; [144895]

(8) what the Government's policy is on the choice of a discount rate for public sector pension scheme liabilities; and if he will make a statement. [144896]

Mr. Timms: The unfunded public service pension liability as at 31 March 2005 was estimated to be £530 billion, and a technical paper explaining the

methodology underlying this estimate is in the House Library. A new estimate will be published in due course.

The total liability estimate covers all the pensions due to be paid to current and future pensioners in unfunded pension schemes, which will be paid at different times over the next eight decades, and which have been earned by around 10 million current and former public servants and their dependants over the last eight decades.

The cash payments needed to service these payments remain stable and fully affordable. In 2004-05, around £18 billion was spent on paying unfunded, public service occupational pensions. This compares with around £17 billion in 2003-04. Both of these figures are in cash terms.

And as the latest Long Term Public Finance Report demonstrates, these annual cash payments are projected to remain completely affordable in the long-term, rising gradually to only 2 per cent. of GDP in 50 years time, contributing to the strong position the UK economy is in to meet the fiscal challenges of the future.

Small Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Confederation of British Industry on the position of small businesses. [145543]

John Healey: The Chancellor is in frequent dialogue with the Confederation of British Industry as well as other representative bodies, discussing a number of issues including the position of small businesses.

Stillbirths

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many stillbirths there were in each English region in each year since 1997. [144286]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many stillbirths there were in each region of England in each year since 1997. (144286)

The latest year for which stillbirth figures are available is 2005. The accompanying table shows numbers of stillbirths in England by Government Office Region for the years 1997 to 2005.

Stillbirths by Government Office Region[1] in England 1997 to 2005

Government office region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
North East	162	170	144	140	136	153	150	166	162
North West	463	454	432	418	459	424	471	461	453
Yorkshire and Humber	313	338	305	338	287	334	357	386	379
East Midlands	235	247	219	218	241	254	289	267	245
West Midlands	361	365	391	348	337	383	387	382	394
Eastern	312	313	308	296	291	318	311	343	282
London	652	633	624	663	620	691	759	765	702
South East	440	441	426	398	409	421	445	466	454
South West	312	258	279	210	211	223	261	249	227
Total England	3,250	3,219	3,128	3,029	2,991	3,201	3,430	3,485	3,298

[1] Stillbirths are assigned to Government Office Region according to the usual residence of the mother at the date of the birth, as stated at registration.
The table excludes a small number of stillbirths occurring in England each year to mothers whose usual residence was outside England and Wales.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Tax Allowances: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax relief schemes are in place for members of the military serving overseas. [145547]

Dawn Primarolo: Members of the military serving overseas are entitled to the tax relief available to taxpayers generally, provided they satisfy any qualifying conditions. The Government have also introduced a specific tax exemption in Finance Bill 2007 for members of the armed forces who are paid the newly introduced operational allowance. There is also a tax exemption under section 299 Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 that covers any foreign service allowance paid to members of the armed forces to cover the extra cost of having to live outside the United Kingdom when serving overseas.

Tax Collection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to recover tax uncollected by HM Revenue and Customs in the period 2005-06. [145550]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) take a number of steps to recover outstanding tax debts. These include:

The issue of printed reminders and letters

Telephone pursuit campaigns and calls to individual cases

Recovery visits to business and home addresses and,

if the debt is still unpaid instigation of legal proceedings via distraint, court and/or insolvency action. 2005-06 debt still outstanding is being managed and will now be subject to recovery action, time to pay arrangements, legal proceedings or insolvency action although some of the debt will still be under dispute.

The Department is also introducing more flexible payment methods to make it easier for customers to pay tax liabilities.

Tax Credit Office: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what bonuses were paid to staff working on tax credits in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year from April 2003 to May 2007; and if he will make a statement; [141494]

(2) how many bonus payments were made to Tax Credit Office staff in each year since 2003, broken down by value of payment. [143595]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available for all staff working on tax credits. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend gave him on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1393W. As she explained, staff in various parts of HM Revenue and Customs, not only the Tax Credit Office, may be deployed to tax credits work or deal with tax credits in addition to other work. It is not possible to isolate those in receipt of bonus payments.

For the number and value of bonus payments made to Tax Credit Office staff since new tax credits were introduced in 2003, I refer the hon. Member to the answers my right hon. Friend gave him on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1646W, 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1393W, 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 587W, and 12 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1792-93W.

The Director of the Tax Credit Office continues to recognise exceptional performance—including examples of excellent customer service—through a Recognition Bonus Scheme. The number and value of bonus payments made to Tax Credits Office staff from October 2006 to May 2007 inclusive are shown as follows:

	Number of Staff awarded a bonus payment	*Total value paid (£)*
2006		
October	3	750
November	17	1,900
December	7	1,200
2007		
January	7	1,600
February	44	5,400
March	63	15,850
April	2	800
May	23	3,400

Tax Credit Office: Sick Leave

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sick days were taken by Tax Credit Office staff in each year since 2003; and what the average number of sick days was per staff member. [143596]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Full-time equivalent days taken	*Average number of working days lost per member of staff*
2003	56,726	16.86
2004	69,032	16.88
2005-06	48,692	16.71
2006-07 (provisional)	44,258	13.16

Tax Credits: Research

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the evaluation strategy for research and development tax credits includes assessments of whether the final beneficial owner of the entity claiming the tax credits is based offshore. [145039]

John Healey: The research survey conducted in 2005 as part of the evaluation of R and D tax credits collected information on a range of characteristics of the R and D companies responding, including whether they were part of a larger foreign company or group. The findings are published as Research Report 12 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/index.htm

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy not to appoint individuals who hold non-domicile tax status as economic advisers or give them access to official papers on economic policy. [145030]

John Healey: The appointment and conduct of special advisers is in accordance with the Ministerial Code, Civil Service Code and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many home visits were made by HM Revenue and Customs staff to pensioners to provide assistance with completing self-assessment tax return forms in each of the last five years. [145478]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 2005-06 tax returns have been lost. [145452]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of lost tax returns is not recorded centrally. HMRC have a rigorous system for logging and handling returns in order to minimise the risk of losses.

Taxation: USA

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the recent enforcement actions taken by the US Inland Revenue Services against two large accountancy partnerships located both in the US and

the UK have been discussed at joint meetings of the UK and US tax authorities. [144694]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Financial Secretary on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1124W.

I am unable to comment on particular cases.

Unemployment: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Warrington were unemployed *(a)* in April 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) local government ward. [145467]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people in Warrington were unemployed *(a)* in April 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) local government ward. (145467)

For unitary and local authorities, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of total unemployment, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions, from a statistic model. For all other estimates of unemployment for local areas, ONS compiles statistics from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following ILO definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows modelled estimates of the total number of unemployed, for the Warrington unitary authority, for the 12 months ending in February 1997 and the 12 months ending in September 2006. Estimates by age group are provided from the annual local area LFS for the 12 months ending in February 1997 and from the APS for the 12 months ending in September 2006. Corresponding estimates for local government wards are not available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the total numbers of people, and the numbers by age group, resident in the Warrington unitary authority, claiming JSA in April 1997, April 2007 and in May 2007, the latest available data. Also shown are the total numbers of claimants as percentages of the resident working age population. Table 3, attached, shows the numbers of JSA claimants in each local authority ward in Warrington, and these numbers as percentages of the resident working age populations, for May 2007.

Data for 2003 Census Area Statistics wards are provided for the latest period only, as data for the same ward boundaries, for April 1997, are not available.

Table 1: Unemployed persons resident in Warrington unitary authority

Thousand

	All[1]		*Aged 16 to 24*		*Aged 25 to 49*		*Aged 50 and over*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*Rate*[2] *(%)*	*Level*	*Rate*[2] *(%)*	*Level*	*Rate*[2] *(%)*	*Level*	*Rate*[2] *(%)*
February 1997	56	5.62	1	8.5	2	4.1	2	7.9
September 2006	4	4.3	2	12.0	2	2.9	1	3.1

[1] Model-based estimates are subject to random variability.
[2] Unemployment as a percentage of the economically active population of the age group.
Note:
LFS/APS estimates are subject to sampling variability. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local: area Labour Force Survey; Annuals Population Survey; ONS.

Table 2: Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Warrington unitary authority: by age group

	All		*Aged 16 to 24*[1]	*Aged 25 to 49*	*Aged 50 and over*[1]
Month	*Number*	*Proportion*[2] *(%)*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
April 1997	3,939	3.3	1,050	2,130	735
April 2007	2,249	1:8	685	1,215	345
May 2007	2,183		1.8	1,185	315

[1] Computerised claims only. Rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working age population.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Table 3,' Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Warrington unitary authority by ward

	May 2007	
Ward[1]	*Number*	*Proportion*[2] *(%)*
Appleton	32	0.5
Bewsey and Whitecross	281	4.7
Birchwood	165	2.2
Burtonwood and Winwick	46	1.3
Cultheth, Glazebury and Croft	75	1.1
Fairley and Howley	215	3.2

Table 3,' Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Warrington unitary authority by ward

	May 2007	
Ward[1]	*Number*	*Proportion*[2] *(%)*
Grappenhall and Thelwall	42	0.8
Great Sankey North	36	0.9
Great Sankey South	99	1.5
Hatton, Stretton and Walton	6	0.3
Latchford East	166	3.7
Latchford West	73	1.8
Lymm	53	0.8
Orford	236	3.5

Table 3,' Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Warrington unitary authority by ward

	May 2007	
Ward[1]	*Number*	*Proportion*[2] *(%)*
Penketh and Cuerdley	39	07
Poplars and Hulme	258	4.1
Poulton North	136	2.0
Poulton South	35	0.9
Rixton and Woolston	64	1.0
Stockton Heath	24	0.6
Westbrook	39	0.9
Whittle Hall	6.3	1.1

[1] 2003 Census area statistics ward. [2] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.
Source: Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), if he will place in the Library copies of staff magazines produced by the VOA since the January 2006 edition. [142401]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 432W, which confirmed that a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's staff magazine for June 2006 was placed in the Library. Two subsequent editions have now been placed in the Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the Valuation Office Agency's Audit Committee minutes from the last 12 months. [143661]

Dawn Primarolo: The meeting summaries, which will be published on the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) website—www.voa.gov.uk—have been placed in the Library.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's target is for increasing the number of photographs of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties held on its electronic database. [145223]

Dawn Primarolo: The VOA has no target to increase the number of photographs on the electronic database.

Valuation Office: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1513W, on the Valuation Office: manpower, what the figure was in each year from 1990 to 1999. [145345]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed by the agency as at the end of March each year are shown in the following table:

	Number of full-time equivalent staff
1997	4,301
1998	4,110
1999	4,072

The VOA does not retain records prior to 1997. Therefore we are unable to produce Staff In Post reports before this year.

Valuation Office: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on media training in each year since 2001. [145224]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency spent £20,000 in 2004 on media training.

Valuation Office: Visits Abroad

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the foreign countries which representatives of the Valuation Office Agency have visited on official business since 1 January. [145234]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1 January 2007, VOA staff visited Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA and Lithuania on official business.

VAT

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of total uncollected VAT revenues in the last year for which figures are available. [126242]

Dawn Primarolo: Recoverable VAT revenue uncollected at the end of financial year 2005-06 was estimated at £1.1 billion.

This figure is a snapshot of the amount unpaid at the end of the financial year and fluctuates throughout the year.

This debt is being actively managed and will be subject to recovery action, time to pay arrangements, legal proceedings and insolvency action.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the expected *(a)* gross and *(b)* net revenue is from VAT on (i) home information packs (HIPs), (ii) the home condition report element of a HIP and (iii) energy performance certificates; [145228]

(2) whether VAT will be payable on the entire contents of a home information pack. [145229]

Dawn Primarolo: The extent to which VAT will be payable on the costs incurred by a prospective house seller in compiling a home information pack will depend on the contents of each individual pack, and on how it is compiled.

HM Revenue and Customs does not have the information required to make these specific estimates.

VAT: Registration

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on businesses of the time taken to approve VAT applications; what steps he intends to take to reduce this timescale; and if he will make a statement. [144729]

Dawn Primarolo: It is right that HM Revenue and Customs take steps to prevent abuse of the VAT system—including by those who seek to register for fraudulent purposes. While these steps aim to target abuse, HMRC recognise that unacceptable delays for legitimate businesses should be minimised. HMRC are introducing new working practices and processes designed to improve the service.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1500W, on VAT: registration, how many VAT applications not processed within 21 days of receipt in March 2007 related to *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* other electrical equipment and *(c)* other activities. [145175]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not record processing times for businesses involved specifically in mobile phones or electrical equipment.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1500W, on VAT: registration, how many such complaints were from companies seeking VAT registration to conduct business activities relating to *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* other electrical equipment and *(c)* other activities. [145177]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not record details of the trading activities of businesses that made complaints.

VAT: Solar Power

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much VAT was raised from the sale of solar panels for the latest year for which figures are available. [145884]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of what the expenditure on *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* child benefit will be in 2006-07; and on what assumptions including take up rates this figure is based. [144554]

Dawn Primarolo: Provisional estimates of tax credit and child benefit expenditure in 2006-07 is published in Table 1.3b "Monthly and quarterly Child and Working Tax Credits and Child Benefit net payments", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/menu.htm

These estimates may be subject to revision when definitive annual totals are released with the 2007 HMRC Trust Statement.

No assumptions are made in producing these statistics.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what backlogs there are in HM Revenue and Customs offices of unprocessed *(a)* tax credit claim forms and *(b)* declaration forms; and if he will make a statement. [144709]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs aims to deal with 86 per cent. of new claims, renewals and changes of circumstances within five working days and 95 per cent. in 30 working days.

The latest figures that are available show there are no backlogs of unprocessed new claims or 2006-07 annual declaration forms.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recommendations for reform of the tax credit system were fully implemented as at 31 May; and if he will make a statement; [144710]

(2) what steps are being taken to bring to the attention of tax credit claimants their potential entitlement to additional payments due to in-year restrictions on recovery; [144740]

(3) what action has been taken to implement a period of notice before recovery of a tax credit overpayment; what period of notice is to be given; and if he will make a statement; [144741]

(4) what action had been taken as at 31 May 2007 to ensure that all claimants who are asked to repay overpaid tax credits are automatically made aware of the reasons for any overpayment; and if he will make a statement; [144742]

(5) why the Government have not implemented the Parliamentary Ombudsman's third recommendation on tax credits in relation to displaying appeal rights on overpayments on the award notice; and if he will make a statement; [144743]

(6) what action his Department takes to notify tax credit claimants of the circumstances in which they can have recovery of overpaid tax credits waived; and if he will make a statement; [144744]

(7) pursuant to the debate of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 181WH, on tax credits, what the evidential basis was for the statement by the Paymaster General that the vast majority of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recommendations on tax credits had been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [144750]

Dawn Primarolo: Progress against each of the ombudsman's recommendations of her report, "Tax Credits: Putting Things Right (HC 124), can be seen in the following table:

	Summary of Recommendation	*Progress*
1	Steps to ensure staff recognise the situations where interim payments of tax credits are appropriate.	Implemented. Guidance sent out 2005.
2	The Revenue should not seek to recover until it has come to a decision on whether it should be recovered under COP 26 (the 'pause').	Work in progress. Suspension of recovery of disputed overpayments became possible from November 2005. From November 2006 this became fully automatic. Government accepted the case in principle for a period of notice before recovery of an overpayment begins.
3	On the 'payments page' of an award notice, customers should be alerted to the fact that recovery can be disputed under COP 26.	Implemented. Clearly displayed in the one-page notes accompanying the award notice.
4	Recovery should be at the same rate as those for previous year overpayments.	Implemented. Part of package of measures announced at PBR 2005.
5	Steps to ensure that staff who have contact with tax credit customers are alert to the circumstances when Additional Tax Credits (ATCs) might be appropriate.	Implemented. Guidance sent out 2005. Special arrangements from January to ensure in-year restriction is available without claimants having to ask for this.
6	Where in-year recovery of excess tax credits is justified, the Revenue should take steps to pay ATCs automatically to families in receipt of income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance.	Implemented. This recommendation has been overtaken by the announcement in PBR 2005 to align cross and in-year recovery rates. This will occur for all in-year recoveries, whether or not the claimant is in receipt of IS or I/B JSA.
7	Details of the availability of ATCs should be printed prominently on the 'payments' page of an award notice and the guidance notes.	Implemented. More prominent on both these documents. Overtaken by the announcement in PBR 2005 to align cross and in-year recovery rates.
8	Overpaid customers to be sent a letter outlining: The total amount they owe; The reasons why the overpayment occurred and the date or dates when it happened; and The repayment arrangements which will apply in their case. The letter to enclose a copy of COP 26 and draw particular attention to the circumstances when recovery can be waived and the availability of ATCs in cases of hardship.	Implemented. Revised award notice explains in more detail how the award is made up, the payment schedule and details of how payments are affected by recovery action. The guidance notes give greater prominence to overpayments and recovery, the availability of COP26, waiver and additional payments. A full Playback introduced in November 2006, as part of the latest computer release, and will mean that a claimant's finalisation/renewals notice from April 2007 will contain information on their award throughout the previous tax year. This will help with explaining "why did this overpayment occur".

	Summary of Recommendation	*Progress*
9	Whenever a Revenue mistake is identified which has led to an overpayment, the customer should be immediately notified of exactly what has happened and informed of the circumstances when recovery can be waived.	Implemented. When an IT system problem is identified which has led to an overpayment, HMRC will contact those affected. Award notice contains the amount and how it will be recovered on the notice. The accompanying guidance notes tell claimants that HMRC's approach to overpayments is outlined in COP 26. HMRC cannot always identify where a mistake has been made as it often needs individual customer contact.
10	Write off all overpayments caused by official error which occurred during 2003-04 and 2004.	Not accepted. The Government have to balance duty of care to tax credit claimants with their duty to all taxpayers and the public purse.
11	Statutory test for recovery of overpayments consistent with the test that is currently applied to social security benefits, with a right of appeal to an independent tribunal.	An alternative approach is being piloted. Claimants can complain if they disagree with the decision or matters are not resolved to their satisfaction. HMRC are planning with the adjudicator to provide a fast track independent review for disputed overpayments. Pilot will start in the next few months to test arrangements.
12	The Revenue should consider the way it organises delivery of tax credits in order to deliver a better, more complete service to the customers it now serves. A different model is needed in complex cases and where something has gone wrong. More sustained and informed communication with customers about their case is essential.	Implemented but will always be subject to ongoing work. Special team set up in the Tax Credits Office (TCO) to deal with more complex cases (known as "Group 33") who adopt a whole case approach. TCO have reviewed their complaints processes and made a number of changes. In particular to have a named caseworker who will take ownership of the complaint until it is resolved. More generally we have taken a more radical long-term look at the way we delivery tax credits. This now forms part of the Department's Transformation programme.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budgeted provision is for administering the tax credits system in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [144711]

Dawn Primarolo: The costs of administering the tax credits system are reported annually in HMRC's Trust Statement, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many interim payments of tax credits there were in each month since October 2005. [144738]

Dawn Primarolo: For information up to and including January 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1513-14W.

Information for the period February 2007 to May 2007 inclusive is:

	Manual payment instructions processed (Thousand)
February 2007	55
March 2007	54
April 2007	25
May 2007	31

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many additional tax credit payments were made in each month from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144739]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number and value of additional tax credits payments in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 376-77W.

It is no longer necessary for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to issue manual payments in cases of hardship following an in-year adjustment. Instead, a

new process allows for an adjustment on the tax credits system to reduce the rate of recovery of an overpayment in-year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases were dealt with by the Group 33 tax credits team in each month from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144746]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is given in the table as follows.

Month	*Number cases dealt with by the Group 33 tax credits team*
2005	
February	719
March	2,402
April	3,337
May	3,603
June	3,381
July	3,445
August	4,450
September	4,613
October	5,752
November	3,757
December	3,308
2006	
January	5,513
February	4,212
March	3,087
April	2,749
May	3,648
June	3,376
July	4,908
August	2,904
September	3,723
October	4,807
November	3,519
December	3,207
2007	
January	4,119
February	3,252
March	3,817
April	2,908
May	2,886

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action is being taken as part of the Department's Transformation Programme to review the long-term operation of the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [144747]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Credits Transformation Programme, which is part of the Departmental Transformation Programme, aims to improve the delivery of tax credits by tailoring services and communications to the needs of the customers. As part of the Tax Credits Transformation Programme, HMRC has started to pilot some improvements in customer service, for example in helping customers whose circumstances change as the result of the breakdown of a relationship.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are planned further to simplify tax credit award notices. [144748]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Batley and Spen (Mike Wood) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1104W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of trends in tax credit fraud and error between *(a)* 2003-04 and 2004-05 and *(b)* 2004-05 and 2005-06; and if he will make a statement; [144870]

(2) if he will make a statement on current levels of fraud and error in tax credits. [144874]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Timms) gave him on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1126W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the level of official error in the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement; [144749]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the level of software error in the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [144871]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence given to the Treasury Select Committee on 14 March 2007 in response to the hon. Member for Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost of the £2,500 tax credit income disregard for 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [144877]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 361W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit claims were disallowed after *(a)* pre-payment and *(b)* post-payment verification checks in each quarter from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement; [144878]

(2) how many tax credit claims were examined by the Compliance Unit in each month since April 2003; and if he will make a statement; [144879]

(3) how many potential organised tax credit fraud cases were identified by HM Revenue and Customs pre-payment checks in each month since May 2005; and if he will make a statement; [144880]

(4) what the estimated yield was in 2006-07 from HM Revenue and Customs tax credit pre-payment checks; and if he will make a statement; [144881]

(5) how many suspect tax credit applications by organised fraudsters were stopped by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [144882]

(6) how many checks on tax credit awards before payment were made in each quarter from April 2001 to April 2007. [145247]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on tax credits compliance activities for 2005-06 was published in the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report on HMRC's Accounts. HMRC's 2006-07 Accounts are due to be presented to the House of Commons before it rises for summer recess.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sample site was used for 2004-05 tax credit awards to check the level of tax credit fraud and error; and if he will make a statement. [144897]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 830W, on welfare tax credits, if he will break down the figures given in table 4 of the publication child tax credit and working tax credit, take up rates, 2004-05 by those with *(a)* two working parents, *(b)* two parents, one of whom is working, *(c)* a single parent and *(d)* other family circumstances. [145188]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the backlog of cases is in the Tax Credit Calculating and Scheduling Group; and how long cases took to resolve in the last period for which figures are available. [145211]

Dawn Primarolo: Currently, the Tax Credit Calculating and Scheduling group has around four days work on hand. Information about how long cases take to resolve is not available

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets have been set for reducing error and fraud in the tax credit system; and if he will make a statement. [145245]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer you to the evidence given to the Public Accounts Committee on 23 October 2006 in response to questions 10-12 (which can be found at: http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmpubacc/cmpubacc.htm#evid).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of service from HM Revenue and Customs received by tax credit claimants; and if he will make a statement. [145249]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to HM Revenue and Customs 2007 departmental report available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the total amount of tax credits paid out due to error or fraud in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07 he estimates will never be recovered. [145449]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer to my statement to the House on tax credits on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1281. Estimates for subsequent years are not yet available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with officials from HM Revenue and Customs on the administration of tax credits. [145548]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury officials meet regularly with HMRC officials to discuss a wide range of tax credits subjects as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to his Department's procedures to prevent people from claiming tax credit in respect of non-existent children. [143810]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC check tax credits claims and carry out enquiries to make sure that claims are genuine, that any children claimed for actually exist and the circumstances of the family genuinely qualify.

HMRC prosecutes frauds and tax credits cheats face fines, jail and a criminal record.

HMRC is constantly looking at ways to improve our procedures to prevent tax credits fraud.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the amount lost to tax credit fraud recovered in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [144872]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1281W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were prosecuted for tax credit fraud in each quarter since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [144873]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

For total prosecution figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1393-94W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many organised tax credit fraud cases the Organised Fraud Strategy Board investigated in each quarter since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [144875]

Dawn Primarolo: The Organised Fraud Strategy Board is a governance body and it does not investigate any cases of tax credit fraud directly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants appealing against overpayments exercised their right to attend an oral hearing by an appeal tribunal in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [145244]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on the number of oral hearings requested at tribunal is not available.

Tax credits claimants have a right of appeal against decisions about their tax credit entitlement but HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit' gives the reasons why claimants might be able to dispute an overpayment and how they should do this.

Welfare Tax Credits: EC Countries

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether EU citizens entitled to claim child-related benefits or tax credits in their home country are eligible to claim *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* child benefit in the UK for the same child; and if he will make a statement. [144115]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many computer software errors there were in the tax credits system which have potentially caused errors in payments in each reporting period from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144902]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 543W.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the IT system used for working families tax credit (WFTC) was the same system used for family credit or a new system; and whether the system used for the new tax credits is the same as that used for WFTC. [145085]

Dawn Primarolo: The IT system used for working families tax credit (WFTC) was the same system used for family credit (FamC).

The IT system used for the new tax credits is a different system to that used for WFTC.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on tax credit computer system-generated errors following change of client circumstances. [145210]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury Ministers have received a number of representations on various aspects of the administration of the tax credits system and I have reported regularly to the House on its operation.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total payments have been made to date to organisations awarded the contract to run the tax credits computer system. [145627]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1516W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans the tax credits e-portal to be opened again by 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144904]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the numbers of staff working at the expense of the public purse on tax credit work in each reporting period since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [144906]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 320W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which HM Revenue and Customs sites in the UK contain staff working *(a)* on tax credits policy, *(b)* on tax credit debt management, *(c)* in tax credit contact centres, *(d)* in tax credit enquiry centres, *(e)* in the tax credits office, *(f)* in the tax credit programme office, *(g)* on tax credit compliance, *(h)* on the tax credit IT live service and *(i)* in tax credit IT development; how many staff work at each site; and if he will make a statement. [145404]

Dawn Primarolo: For staff figures I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him today (144906). Information on how to contact HMRC can be found at www.hmrc.gov.uk under "contact us".

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff are employed in the assisted adjudicator's office of HM Revenue and Customs dealing with tax credit disputes; [145450]

(2) how many staff are employed by HM Revenue and Customs to deal with tax credit disputes. [145451]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs currently has around 220 full-time equivalent staff members dealing with tax credits complaints.

Welfare Tax Credits: Migrant Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what checks are in place to ensure that migrant workers in receipt of tax credits do not continue to receive payments after they have returned to their home countries; and if he will make a statement; [145248]

(2) what checks are in place to validate claims of EU migrant workers for child tax credits in respect of children who live abroad; and if he will make a statement; [145250]

(3) what proportion of child tax credit claims for migrant workers *(a)* were rejected in each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* have been rejected in 2007-08; what the principal reasons have been for the rejection of such claims; and if he will make a statement. [145251]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 3 (3) and (7) of the Tax Credits Act 2002 provides a general requirement for all claimants to be in the UK to be eligible for the child and working tax credits, unless prescribed exceptions apply. HMRC have a range of checks in place to determine the overall risk of a claim, both pre- and post-payment, and intervene where they suspect a claim may be wrong or fraudulent. These checks apply to all claimants, irrespective of nationality.

Claims by EU migrant workers for family benefits in the UK (child benefit and child tax credit) under the co-ordinating rules in EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72 are subject to checks between HMRC and the competent authorities of the other member state on the composition of the worker's family resident in the other member state and whether family benefits are in payment in that other state. In addition, claimants may be required to provide a birth or adoption certificate for the child in question or a certified copy.

The other information requested is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were taken to court for non-payment of tax credit overpayments in *(a)* April and *(b)* May; and if he will make a statement. [144552]

Dawn Primarolo: No cases were taken to court for recovery of tax credit overpayments in April and May.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his policy to categorise tax credit overpayments due to failure to declare a partner as fraud or as error; and if he will make a statement. [144695]

Dawn Primarolo: Whether overpayments arising from a failure to disclose a partner are categorised as error or fraud is dependent on the individual circumstances of a case.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to date of tax credit overpayments due to failure to declare a partner. [144696]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated cost of error and fraud by claimants failing to declare a partner, in 2003-04, is published in table 6 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit. Error and Fraud Statistics. 2003-04", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit forms TC846 were issued in each month from April 2003 to June 2007. [144697]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the average cost of handling each tax credit overpayment appeal; and if he will make a statement. [144698]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayment demands were overturned by *(a)* the Ombudsman and *(b)* the Adjudicator in each reporting period from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [144699]

Dawn Primarolo: For information about the independent adjudicator and the ombudsman, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 143W. The independent adjudicator subsequently published her 2006 report on 20 June 2006 and the parliamentary ombudsman published her report on 12 July 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the guidelines given to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff for recovering overpaid tax credits; what powers HMRC staff have to make calls at the claimant's home address; and if he will make a statement. [144700]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has a standard process for direct recovery of tax credit overpayments, the primary objective being to encourage the claimant to make contact. The process includes printed reminders for payment, at least three attempts at making personal contact by telephone or a visit to the claimant's home address if telephone contact not possible. And finally a letter warning of legal proceedings is issued before cases are taken to court. The process includes a facility for the Tax Credits Office to withdraw, at any time, any case under dispute.

HMRC staff operate under a general power, without which the Commissioners would be unable to undertake their duty to collect the revenue for which they are responsible, under section 5 Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 (which includes tax credits under S5(1)(c).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recovery procedure checks are in place in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) which must be implemented before HMRC can take to court tax credit claimants with overpayments; and if he will make a statement. [144703]

Dawn Primarolo: Instructions to staff on the prime procedural checks, which must be implemented before court action is instigated for recovery of a tax credit overpayment, state that the overpayment must be appropriate for recovery. The procedure includes:

a check to ensure that the case is not in dispute, subject to a time to pay arrangement or a potential hardship case

a check to ensure that the claimant is not in receipt of income support or jobseekers allowance

a check for any special circumstances that suggest the case is not appropriate for recovery action.

a check by a higher grade officer to ensure that the case is suitable for court action and that all the procedures have been carried out.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many errors HM Revenue and Customs staff are allowed to make in dealing with a tax credit case before an overpayment is written off; and if he will make a statement; [144705]

(2) whether a tax credit overpayment is deemed recoverable if, due to official error, a tax credit award notice records both zero income and the claimant's place of work and hours of work; and if he will make a statement. [144707]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's approach to handling tax credits overpayments is set out in its code of practice 26: "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/credit.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets have been set by HM Revenue and Customs for its staff involved in dealing with tax credit overpayment appeals; and if he will make a statement. [144706]

Dawn Primarolo: Tax credits claimants have a right of appeal against decisions about their tax credit entitlement but HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) code of practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" gives the reasons why claimants might be able to dispute an overpayment and how they should do this.

HMRC aims to deal with 80 per cent. of correspondence within 15 working days of receipt and 95 per cent. within 40 working days.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the introduction of reduced rates of recovery from tax credit overpayments. [144708]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 15WS and the evidence I gave to the Treasury Select Committee on 14 March 2007 in response to question 20.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in using a pilot to test the possibility of the adjudicator working with HM Revenue and Customs to provide a fast track independent review for disputed tax credit overpayments; and if he will make a statement. [144745]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC is planning with the adjudicator to provide a fast track independent review for disputed overpayments. A pilot will start in next few months to test arrangements.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* disputed overpayments of tax credits and *(b)* disputed overpayments of tax credits written-off in each month since February 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144866]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers of disputed overpayments received and the numbers of overpayments written off either fully or partially because of official error since February 2007 were around:

Month 2007	*Number of disputes received*	*Number written off (fully or partially)*
February	19,500	500
March	20,000	450
April	14,000	350
May	16,000	400

The figures for overpayments written off do not directly relate to those disputes that were received in the same month. TCO does not separately record whether an overpayment is written off in part or in full.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the number of disputed tax credit payments which were written-off declined between 2005 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [144867]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the oral evidence taken before the Treasury Committee on 14 March 2007.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department's estimates of overpaid tax credits in 2003-04 and 2004-05 include amounts paid out due to fraud and error; and if he will make a statement; [144898]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of tax credit overpayments which involved some element of official error in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [144901]

Dawn Primarolo: The HMRC statistical publications on overpayment of tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 do not include any claims identified as error (claimant or official) or fraud.

The HMRC publication "Tackling Error and Fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" provides an explanation on what information is included in the overpayment and Error and Fraud publications. This document is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Payments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit *(a)* maladministration and *(b)* consolatory payments were made in each month from April 2003 to June 2006. [144704]

Dawn Primarolo: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, "Complaints and Putting Things Right", which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of its mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays. It does not keep separate details of

compensation payments made specifically due to "maladministration" or "poor service".

For the number and value of compensation payments made up to 30 September 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2027-28W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Personation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford had tax credits suspended due to identity theft in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [144113]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Publicity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total spending on all forms of tax credit publicity and advertising was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; if he will list the spending on each tax credits campaign; and if he will make a statement. [145242]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

(a) I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 319W.

(b) I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 566W.

Information is not available at campaign level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Take-up

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the take-up of tax credits for those with incomes of between £10,000 and £20,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement. [145241]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the take-up rate of tax credits by band of income in 2004-05, the most recent year of available data, are available in table 4 of the publication "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up rates. 2004-05." This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/takeup-rates2004-05.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were made to the tax credits helpline in each month from April 2003 to April 2007; and how many of these calls were unanswered, broken down by reason for the call. [141492]

Dawn Primarolo: I would refer the hon. member to previous answers of 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 322W, 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2137W, 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1858W, and 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 187-88W, where elements of the requested information have already been provided. Within the limits of readily available information, the following table aims to show calls received and calls engaged/busy and abandoned for those periods not previously answered where this information has not previously been provided.

It is not possible to establish the reason for calling if a call was unanswered.

	Received[1, 3]	Abandoned[2, 3]	To nearest thousand Engaged/busy[3]
2003			
April	[4]—	741	[4]—
May	[4]—	320	[4]—
June	[4]—	44	[4]—
July	[4]—	86	[4]—
August	[4]—	60	[4]—
September	[4]—	63	[4]—
October	[4]—	35	[4]—
November	[4]—	56	[4]—
December	[4]—	24	[4]—
2004			
January	[4]—	25	[4]—
February	[4]—	21	[4]—
March	[4]—	22	[4]—
April	[4]—	44	[4]—
May	[4]—	37	[4]—
June	[4]—	34	[4]—
July	[4]—	41	[4]—
August	[4]—	23	[4]—
September	[4]—	153	[4]—
October	[4]—	25	[4]—
November	[4]—	22	[4]—
December	[4]—	32	[4]—
2005			
January	[4, 5]—	67	[4, 5]—
February	[4, 5]—	58	[4, 5]—
March	[4, 5]—	50	[4, 5]—
April	[4, 5]—	120	[4, 5]—
May	[4, 5]—	111	[4, 5]—
June	[4, 5]—	122	[4, 5]—
July	[5]—	94	[5]—
August	[5]—	184	[5]—
September	[5]—	272	[5]—
October	[5]—	67	[5]—
November	[5]—	65	[5]—
December	[5, 6]—	35	[5]—
2006			
January	[5, 6]—	[7]—	[5]—
February	[6]—	[7]—	123
March	[6]—	[7]—	26
April	[6]—	[7]—	78
May	[6]—	72	413
June	2,288	64	452
July	2,225	39	162
August	2,712	45	273
September	2,095	22	90
October	1,764	12	17
November	1,919	24	58
December	1,176	8	38
2007			
January	1,775	16	157

	Received[1, 3]	Abandoned[2, 3]	To nearest thousand Engaged/busy[3]
February	1,843	14	43
March	1,735	12	44
April	1,906	30	165

[1] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser.
[2] Where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and was put in a queue to speak to an adviser but the call was terminated before the caller spoke to an adviser.
[3] Prior to December 2005, figures refer to tax credits GB as Northern Ireland had a separate tax credit helpline, which was not part of the overall HMRC contact centre network. The figures from December 2005, include Northern Ireland.
[4] Detail provided previously, 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 322W.
[5] Detail provided previously, 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2137W.
[6] Detail provided previously, 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1858W.
[7] Detail provided previously, 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 187-88W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls there were to the hon. Members' tax credit helpline in each month from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144701]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number of calls answered by the Tax Credit Office MP Hotline up to the end of 2005 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 348W. The number of calls received for each month from January 2006 to May 2007 is shown below. The information for June 2007 is not yet available.

Month	Number of calls to Tax Credit Office MPs' hotline
2006:	
January	1,712
February	1,195
March	1,241
April	1,164
May	1,402
June	1,535
July	1,294
August	1,348
September	1,398
October	1,599
November	1,823
December	1,458
2007:	
January	1,498
February	1,351
March	1,490
April	1,199
May	1,286

Working Tax Credits: Farmers and Fishermen

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of farmers were in receipt of working tax credits in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 2000; [144220]

(2) how many and what proportion of fishermen were in receipt of working tax credits in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and (c) the UK in each year since 2000. [144236]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 691W.

Written Questions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 131114, on the marginal rate of taxation, and *(b)* 131115, on income tax, tabled on 28 March; and if he will make a statement. [143316]

Ed Balls: I have answered the two questions concerned.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme: Hearing Impaired

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines are issued to Access to Work staff on the provision of communication support professionals for deaf and hard of hearing employees; and how they are enforced. [145592]

Mrs. McGuire: Updated and strengthened guidance on the provision of support workers, including communication support for deaf and hard of hearing people, was issued to all Access to Work Business Centres in December 2006. The guidance describes the types of support that may be suitable, for example British Sign Language Interpreters, lip speakers and palantypists, as well as the steps to take to establish the type and level of appropriate support.

A National Access to Work Delivery Team has been established and has been fully operational since April. The National Access to Work Delivery Manager has appointed two senior operations managers who are responsible for improving consistency of decision making nationally and for regularly monitoring that business centres comply with national guidelines.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of proficiency is expected of a sign language interpreter booked through Access to Work; and how his Department ensures that this standard is met. [145594]

Mrs. McGuire: The proficiency of sign language interpreters can vary from junior trainee interpreter to someone who is a Member of the Register of Sign Language Interpreters. Access to Work will fund the level of interpretation services appropriate for each individual situation. In order to decide on the required level, Access to Work staff need to consider a range of factors, for example the type and size of the event or meeting.

A national Access to Work delivery team has been established and has been fully operational since April.

The national Access to Work delivery manager has appointed two senior operations managers whose duties include the regular monitoring of business centres to ensure they comply with national guidelines.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Access to Work scheme will pay for the use of more than one sign language interpreter for deaf British sign language users attending meetings lasting more than two hours. [145595]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 880W.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of removing the gainfully employed rule which prevents carers from earning over £87 a week if they are claiming carer's allowance. [145243]

Mrs. McGuire: The estimated cost of removing the gainfully employed rule from carer's allowance would be around £450 million per year.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of the carer's allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK; and how many received this allowance in each case in each year since its inception. [146008]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance—cases in payment (caseload)

	November 2006	*August 2006*	*August 2005*	*August 2004*	*August 2003*
Jarrow parliamentary constituency	900	880	850	840	790
South Tyneside local authority	1,600	1,590	1,530	1,470	1,400
North East	26,470	26,350	25,950	25,380	24,640
Total GB	458,930	456,700	445,430	426,340	400,180

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
5. Prior to August 2003, figures are based on those with entitlement only. This means that caseloads cannot be broken down by whether or not a case is in payment.
6. The total in receipt also includes a small number of people who are temporarily abroad so not actually present in GB.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Carer's Allowance: Blackpool

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Blackpool, North and Fleetwood *(a)* receive and *(b)* are entitled to carers' benefits. [143978]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people in Blackpool, North and Fleetwood parliamentary constituency in receipt of and entitled to carers' benefits—November 2006

	In receipt	*Entitled*
Carer's allowance (CA)	970	2,000
Income support with a carer premium	480	480

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Recipients of IS carer's premium may also be entitled to or receiving CA.
3. CA recipient totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
4. CA entitled totals show the number of people who are entitled to receive CA, including those who receive no actual payment.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

The vast majority of these entitled to but not receiving CA are pensioners and are likely to be receiving state pension and may receive the carers' premium in pension credit. Only one benefit at a time can be paid for the same purpose. While the circumstances that give rise to entitlement to CA and the state pension are different, both benefits are designed to provide a degree of replacement for lost or forgone income.

Carer's Allowance: Forms

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from voluntary organisations on the ease of use of carer's allowance claim forms DS700(1) and DS700(2). [145846]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of carer's allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 25 June 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent representations he has received from voluntary organisations on the ease of use of carer's allowance claim forms DS700(1) and DS700(2).

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service (DCS).

I can confirm that there have been no recent representations received concerning the ease of use of the Carers Allowance claim forms DS700(1) and DS700(2). However, very positive comments have been received following the introduction of a shorter Carers Allowance claim form (DS700 (SP)) last year.

This form asks customers of pension age only the basic, relevant questions for claiming Carers Allowance and is intended to be used where the customer's State Pension is in payment and will overlap with payment of Carers Allowance.

In developing this form, the DCS were proactive in seeking the comments of the voluntary sector by consulting with the DCS Advisory Forum, which is our main consultation mechanism and consists of representatives from 17 national customer organisations. We received many helpful comments that helped to shape the final claim form.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Carers: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the value of the pension pot secured by a median carer in a defined benefit opted-out scheme from the opted-out rebates paid from age 25 to 65 years; and if he will make a statement. [144993]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1541.

Child Support Act 1991

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of repealing sections 6 and 46 of the Child Support Act 1991; and if he will make a statement. [145365]

Mr. Plaskitt: The overall impact of the measures in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill are set out in the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) which was published alongside the Bill. The impact of the repeal of section 6 and 46 can be found in the RIA, paragraphs 34 to 53.

Child Support Agency: Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individual hits there were on and *(b)* unique users of the Child Support Agency website in each month since 2001. [143590]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individuals hits and unique users used the Child Support Agency (CSA) website in each month since 2001.

Such information as is available is in the attached table. We do not have any information collected for this prior to September 2002.

Please note that:

A visit is what we count when someone comes to the web site.

A hit is a request to the server for information. If a page contains images then there is one hit for the page and one for each image contained on the page. For instance someone viewing the home page of the website will count as one visitor but six hits—one for the page itself and one for each of the five images on the page.

Unique visitors are individuals who visited the site during the report period. If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Appendix 1

Month	*Hits*	*Visits*	*Unique visitors*
2002			
September (part month)	699,543	21,347	8,248
October	1,469,081	47,810	15,520
November	1,661,346	49,072	15,145
December	1,298,095	38,919	12,329
2003			
January	661,259	56,356	21,722
February	584,819	51,485	21,673
March	546,714	57,837	23,685
April	562,235	60,604	25,418
May	557,047	59,768	25,546
June	572,299	59,929	25,193
July	640,057	65,333	26,683
August	623,767	60,941	25,424
September	730,894	68,200	30,817
October	3,219,468	80,726	33,618
November	3,680,544	76,516	31,170
December	2,670,561	61,971	24,407
2004			
January	4,628,891	88,218	35,452
February	4,015,477	79,765	31,633
March	4,600,627	79,765	35,605
April	3,563,553	92,771	35,605
May	3,734,473	81,977	31,401
June	3,916,304	82,143	32,074
July	3,863,360	81,810	31,977
August	3,990,877	86,181	35,143
September	4,420,653	96,184	41,496
October	4,967,993	210,050	104,561
November	4,959,809	164,747	83,129
December	3,002,242	71,018	26,280
2005			
January	5,202,361	103,127	44,094
February	4,137,837	94,497	39,410
March	4,150,312	102,238	41,734
April	4,079,402	98,119	40,462
May	4,018,123	97,564	39,921
June	4,066,776	102,043	42,420
July	4,066,406	105,007	42,989
August	4,288,431	109,647	45,924
September	4,753,980	114,756	50,651
October	4,359,862	110,902	48,323
November	4,447,157	116,448	49,110
December	3,080,160	91,645	36,061

Appendix 1

Month	*Hits*	*Visits*	*Unique visitors*
2006			
January	5,170,398	136,749	64,211
February	3,486,401	129,298	55,499
March	3,526,061	125,992	56,858
April	2,801,416	109,426	49,912
May	3,089,939	119,029	53,133
June	3,008,979	117,451	52,398
July	3,220,869	117,451	52,398
August	3,271,955	124,615	58,782
September	3,549,710	131,574	62,593
October	3,342,967	133,012	62,537
November	3,171,318	128,577	62,126
December	2,275,975	111,471	52,545
2007			
January	3,470,262	163,122	82,788
February	3,002,254	151,937	77,780
March	3,302,491	170,932	86,549
April	2,989,114	155,090	81,166

Child Support Agency: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was spent on *(a)* managing the Child Support Agency's (CSA) corporate identity in each year since 1997-98 and *(b)* branding of the CSA in each of the last two years; [133913]

(2) how much was spent by the Child Support Agency on *(a)* staff parties, *(b)* newspapers, magazines and periodicals, *(c)* stationery and *(d)* other promotional merchandise branded with the name of the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years; [133914]

(3) how much was spent by the Child Support Agency on branding in each year since 1997. [136014]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Child Support Agency: Prosecutions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases have resulted in court proceedings in the last 12 months. [142900]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases have resulted in court proceedings in the last 12 months. [142900]

Such information as is available is contained in the attached tables. There are two forms of court proceedings undertaken by the Child Support Agency; Civil and Criminal. The Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics provides the latest available information you require for Civil Court proceedings to January 2007. I have attached this information and additional information on Criminal Court proceedings in Annex A.

A copy of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the Internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Civil court proceedings

	February 2006 to January 2007
Total Civil Proceedings undertaken	34,015
England and Wales	
Liability Orders	12,490
Distress Actions	12,985
County Court Judgments	1,840
3rd Party Debt Orders	1,995
Charging Orders	1,685
Scotland	
Liability Orders Granted	845
Attachments	255
Arrestments	615
Bills of Inhibition	850
England, Wales and Scotland	
Suspended committal sentences	385
Committal Sentences	40
Suspended driving licence disqualifications sentences	30
Driving licence disqualification sentences	5

Notes:

1 The table details the number of civil proceedings undertaken and not the number of Child Support Agency cases resulting in court proceedings.

2. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise that the debt is owing. This is the same in both England and Wales and Scotland. This is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).

3. Distress actions refers to bailiff actions in England and Wales. This is where, once the debt has been legally recognised, the Agency has passed the debt to a bailiff company for collection (or equivalent).

4. County court judgment orders apply only to England and Wales. Registers the person with a county court judgment order, which remains on their credit record for six years.

5. Third party debt orders in England and Wales instruct a third party to pay any funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to the Agency instead. In practice, this is typically used for banks and building societies.

6. Charging orders in England and Wales are where a county court order for the legally recognised debt is attached to the equity in the non-resident parent's property. They are then unable to re-mortgage or sell the property without satisfying the debt. If they satisfy the debt by other means, the charge is removed.

7. Attachments refer to actions taken by sheriff officers in Scotland on the Agency's instruction to attach certain goods and remove for auction if the debt is not settled.

8. Arrestments refer to actions taken by sheriff officers in Scotland on the Agency's instruction to serve an arrestment on a third party holding funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to pay to the Agency instead. In practice this is typically used for banks and building societies.

9. Bills of Inhibition in Scotland do not attach directly to the non-resident parent's property, but are a personal prohibition preventing heritable property being transferred, alienated or disposed of by the non-resident parent.

10. Note that the figures for the most recent months are provisional, and may be subject to retrospective revisions.

11. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

12. The figures included in this table do not themselves have National Statistics status, but are included in this publication in order to give a fuller picture of the Agency's performance.

Table 2: Criminal court proceedings

	Number taken to court 12 months to March 2007
Total Criminal Proceedings	498
Failure to provide information	490
Knowingly providing false information	4
Failure to implement a deduction from earnings order	2
Obstructing an Inspector	2

Notes:
1. Criminal proceedings are undertaken when a non-resident parent either fails to comply with a request for information; knowingly makes a false statement, or provides information they know to be false.
2. Criminal proceedings can also be made against employers for failing to apply a deduction of earnings order when asked or for obstructing a child support inspector in the course of their duties or for failing to co-operate with the inspector.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total caseload of the Child Support Agency was in each *(a)* quarter and *(b)* year since 2003; what he estimates the caseload of the Agency and its successor will be in each (i) quarter and (ii) year to 2014; and if he will make a statement. [145371]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member for Yeovil to parliamentary question 141939 answered today.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* third party debt orders and *(b)* charging orders were (i) sought by and (ii) granted to the Child Support Agency in each (A) quarter and (B) year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [145373]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) third party debt orders and (b) charging orders were (i) sought by and (ii) granted to the Child Support Agency in each (A) quarter and (B) year since 1997; and if he will make a statement.

Once a liability order has been registered with the County Court the Agency may apply to the court for a charging order and/or third party debt order. The following table details the number of applications made to the court for each enforcement action.

The Agency does not routinely collate the number of final orders granted by the court. The following table details the number of applications made to the county court for each enforcement action since 1998.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: numbers of charging orders and third party debt orders granted in each year from April 1998 to January 2007

	April 1998—March 1999	*April 1999—March 2000*	*April 2000—March 2001*	*April 2001—March 2002*	*April 2002—March 2003*	*April 2003—March 2004*	*April 2004—March 2005*	*April 2005—March 2006*	*February 2006—January 2007*
Charging orders applied for	204	130	254	314	751	1,395	*1,235	*1,710	*1,995
Third party debt orders applied for	62	69	224	326	750	922	*845	*1,335	*1,685

Notes:
1. Third Party Debt orders in England and Wales instruct a third party to pay any funds owed to, or held on behalf of, the non-resident parent to the Agency instead. In practice this is typically used for banks and building societies.
2. Charging orders in England and Wales are where a County Court Order for the legally recognised debt is attached to the equity in the non-resident parent's property. They are then unable to re-mortgage or sell the property without satisfying the debt. If they satisfy the debt by other means the charge is removed.
3. The figures marked with an asterix are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
4. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
5. The figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest figures published available.

Children: Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long, on average, parents with care in receipt of benefits awaited payment in *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2003. [122890]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average parents with care in receipt of benefits awaited payment in (a) old scheme and (b) new scheme Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2003.

Such information as is available can be found in the attached table, which shows both the number of months that parents with care in receipt of benefits and with a positive liability, to whom maintenance is due have been awaiting payment from the non-resident parent and the median average wait experienced by all parents with care on benefits. Figures for the new scheme should be taken in the context of that for a new caseload, and that for the old scheme in the context of an ageing caseload that is no longer receiving any new cases. In addition, any increase in the total number of non-compliant cases should be viewed in the context of an increase in the overall caseload over the same period.

It should be noted that, in establishing whether a parent with care was in receipt of benefit, the Agency has to match its data to DWP benefit data. The DWP information is only available on a quarterly basis; the latest available is for August 2006.

As you will be aware, the Agency has committed in its Operational Improvement Plan, published in February 2006, to

improve performance, including that 80 per cent. of new applications will be cleared within 12 weeks of receipt by March 2009 and helping 200,000 more children to benefit from maintenance payments, equating to an additional £140 million in maintenance collected, by March 2008, growing to £250 million by March 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: The number of months that cases with a positive maintenance liability have been awaiting payment from the non resident parent, and the median average wait where the parent with care was in receipt of benefit, May 2003 to August 2006, by scheme

	Cases paying in month	*Cases waiting less than 3 months*	*Cases waiting 3 to 6 months*	*Cases waiting 6 to 12 months*	*Cases waiting 1 to 2 years*	*Cases waiting Over 2 years*	*Time bands of Median average wait for maintenance for all PWC's on benefit*
New Scheme							
May 2003	-	4,000	-	-	-	-	0-3 months
August 2003	1,000	9,000	3,000	-	-	-	0-3 months
November 2003	4,000	16,000	6,000	2,000	-	-	0-3 months
February 2004	8,000	14,000	11,000	7,000	-	-	0-3 months
May 2004	13,000	14,000	9,000	12,000	3,000	-	0-3 months
August 2004	18,000	13,000	9,000	14,000	5,000	-	0-3 months
November 2004	23,000	13,000	8,000	12,000	9,000	-	0-3 months
February 2005	28,000	14,000	8,000	11,000	12,000	-	0-3 months
May 2005	35,000	16,000	8,000	11,000	14,000	1,000	0-3 months
August 2005	42,000	17,000	9,000	11,000	14,000	3,000	0-3 months
November 2005	48,000	20,000	10,000	12,000	13,000	5,000	0-3 months
February 2006	56,000	22,000	11,000	13,000	13,000	7,000	0-3 months
May 206	68,000	21,000	11,000	14,000	13,000	9,000	In Payment
August 2006	75,000	22,000	11,000	14,000	14,000	10,000	In Payment
Old Scheme							
May 2003	85,000	25,000	6,000	8,000	8,000	23,000	In Payment
August 2003	78,000	20,000	14,000	9,000	9,000	21,000	In Payment
November 2003	71,000	16,000	9,000	14,000	9,000	19,000	In Payment
February 2004	65,000	15,000	7,000	14,000	10,000	20,000	0-3 months
May 2004	62,000	12,000	6,000	10,000	13,000	19,000	In Payment
August 2004	60,000	11,000	5,000	9,000	14,000	19,000	In Payment
November 2004	56,000	13,000	5,000	8,000	18,000	21,000	0-3 months
February 2005	51,000	8,000	8,000	7,000	17,000	21,000	0-3 months
May 2005	49,000	8,000	3,000	10,000	14,000	26,000	0-3 months
August 2005	48,000	6,000	3,000	9,000	12,000	28,000	0-3 months
November 2005	46,000	5,000	3,000	5,000	13,000	29,000	0-3 months
February 2006	43,000	7,000	2,000	5,000	11,000	29,000	3-6 months
May 2006	44,000	5,000	2,000	4,000	10,000	28,000	0-3 months
August 2006	42,000	6,000	2,000	3,000	9,000	28,000	0-3 months
Total-Both Schemes							
May 2003	85,000	28,000	6,000	8,000	8,000	23,000	In Payment
August 2003	78,000	29,000	17,000	9,000	9,000	21,000	0-3 months
November 2003	75,000	31,000	15,000	16,000	9,000	19,000	0-3 months
February 2004	73,000	29,000	18,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	0-3 months
May 2004	75,000	26,000	15,000	23,000	15,000	19,000	0-3 months
August 2004	78,000	24,000	14,000	23,000	19,000	19,000	0-3 months
November 2004	79,000	26,000	12,000	20,000	27,000	21,000	0-3 months
February 2005	79,000	22,000	16,000	18,000	29,000	21,000	0-3 months
May 2005	84,000	24,000	11,000	21,000	28,000	26,000	0-3 months
August 2005	90,000	24,000	13,000	20,000	26,000	30,000	0-3 months
November 2005	95,000	25,000	13,000	17,000	27,000	34,000	0-3 months
February 2006	99,000	28,000	14,000	18,000	24,000	36,000	0-3 months
May 2006	112,000	27,000	13,000	18,000	23,000	37,000	0-3 months
August 2006	116,000	28,000	13,000	18,000	22,000	38,000	0-3 months

Notes to table:

1. Due to limitations with available management information, it is not possible to calculate the mean average time that cases have been waiting for a payment; hence the table shows the median average time band (in months) either since a payment was received on the case or since the case was calculated as having a positive liability.
2. The table shows cases where the parent with care was on benefit at the end of the month shown. This does not necessarily mean that the parent with care has been on benefit for the entire duration of the CSA claim.
3. Cases are classed as waiting if they are currently open, either non-compliant or have a calculation/assessment but no active charging schedule in place, and no maintenance has been received in the quarter ending with the month shown.
4. The table includes both old scheme cases on the old computer system and old scheme cases, which have been migrated onto the new computer system.
5. The table starts from May 2003, as this is the first month it is possible to provide comparable data across both the new and old schemes.
6. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. '-' Indicates a figure less than 500.

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place for the Child Support Agency to reimburse payments of child maintenance collected by the Agency through deductions from earnings orders imposed after liability had ceased; whether interest accrued is passed on; and what time limits are set for the Agency to effect reimbursements. [138698]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what measures are in place for the Child Support Agency to reimburse payments of child maintenance collected by the Agency through deductions from earnings orders imposed after liability had ceased; whether interest accrued is passed on; and what time limits are set for the Agency to effect reimbursements. [138698]

It is Child Support Agency Policy that any money sent in error must be refunded; even if the receipt has already been paid out to the third party. Where a deduction from earning order continues in force once liability has ceased, the Agency aims to reimburse such payments of child maintenance to employers, with ten working days following a request to reimburse. The Agency does not calculate interest accrued on individual payments. However the Agency is able to consider redress where the non-resident parent has suffered financial loss as a result of an error made by the Agency.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of Child Support Agency liability order applications were inaccurate in any particular for each quarter since March 1997; and if he will make a statement; [141936]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of liability orders made by the Child Support Agency which were incorrect in each year since 1997. [143583]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of Child Support Agency Liability order applications were inaccurate in any way for each quarter since March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141936]

And;

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of Liability Orders made by the Child Support Agency, which were incorrect in each year since 1997. [143583]

To ensure the Agency applies for an appropriate Liability Order, a number of management checks are undertaken prior to a Liability Order application being made, including the provision of an account audit. In a small percentage of cases the Agency may identify a case where a Liability Order has been granted but subsequently discovered an issue, which requires remedial action before further civil proceedings can be considered. This information is set out in the attached Table 1.

In addition, although Magistrates are not able to consider the accuracy of the Agency's debt calculation, the Courts can dismiss an Agency Liability Order application following representation from the Non-Resident Parent. Information on cases dismissed by the courts is set out in the attached Tables 2 & 3.

The software for recording data was introduced in 2003, therefore information is not available on the earlier years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Liability orders, further Agency work required

Quarterly period	*Inaccurate liability order applications (Percentage)*
April 2004 to June 2004	2.5
July 2004 to September 2004	2.9
October 2004 to December 2004	2.6
January 2005 to March 2005	2.7
April 2005 to June 2005	3.5
July 2005 to September 2005	2.5
October 2005 to December 2005	1.3
January 2006 to March 2006	2.6
April 2006 to June 2006	2.3
July 2006 to September 2006	1.5
October 2006 to December 2006	1.2
January 2007 to March 2007	1.9

Table 2: Liability orders, dismissed by the courts, England and Wales

Quarterly period	*Percentage of liability order applications dismissed*
April 2004 to June 2004	0.0
July 2004 to September 2004	0.3
October 2004 to December 2004	0.1
January 2005 to March 2005	0.3
April 2005 to June 2005	0.6
July 2005 to September 2005	0.4
October 2005 to December 2005	0.7
January 2006 to March 2006	0.4
April 2006 to June 2006	0.5
July 2006 to September 2006	0.3
October 2006 to December 2006	0.4
January 2007 to March 2007	0.4

Notes:
1. Information on liability orders accepted by the courts by requiring remedial work by the Agency before enforcement action is only available from April 2004.
2. Information on liability orders rejected by courts in England and Wales only available from April 2004.

Table 3: Rejected liability orders, dismissed by the courts, Scotland

Quarterly period	*Percentage of liability order applications dismissed*
April 2006 to June 2006	0.0
July 2006 to September 2006	0.0
October 2006 to December 2006	0.0
January 2007 to March 2007	0.0

Note:
1. Information on liability orders dismissed by Scottish courts is only available from April 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on Child Support Agency compliance levels of naming and shaming on a website those non-compliant non-resident parents who have been successfully prosecuted; what the annual cost of the procedure is estimated to be; and if he will make a statement; [141937]

(2) how many names of non-compliant non-resident parents he expects to be placed on the Child Support Agency website in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [141938]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the likely effect in Child Support Agency compliance levels of naming and shaming on a website those non-compliant non-resident parents who have been successfully prosecuted; what the annual cost of the procedure is estimated to be; and if he will make a statement. [141937]

and

how many names of non-compliant non-resident parents he expects to be placed on the Child Support Agency website in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [141938].

The decision to publish the names of successfully prosecuted non-compliant parents on the Child Support Agency website is only one measure in a broad programme aiming to build a culture of compliance among non-resident parents. The intention is to promote the message that not paying for your children is not a choice you can make, refusal to pay brings consequences including being named and shamed.

The cost of publishing this information is negligible; information on successful prosecutions is currently gathered as a matter of course and publishing names on our website will take place as part of regular maintenance activity, any remaining cost relates to our decision to consult parents with care which places little burden on our resources.

The number of names published on the Agency website is dependent on the numbers of non compliant non-resident parents found guilty in open court of refusing to provide information to enable child maintenance assessment to be made. In the 12 months to March 2007, there were 485 such successful prosecutions. However we hope that even those who are most determined to avoid their legal responsibilities will respond positively, such that this measure is not required in the future.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the caseload of the Child Support Agency and its successor, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, for each quarter from March 1997 to March 2012; and if he will make a statement. [141939]

Mr. Plaskitt: The caseload of the Child Support Agency is published in the Quarterly Summary Statistics (QSS). The table 1 of the QSS shows the reported caseload of the Child Support Agency between May 1999 and March 2007. The caseload before this date is not reported by the Quarterly Summary Statistics as changes in the calculation methodology mean that the numbers are not comparable. Table 6 of the QSS shows the number of CSA cases with a calculation from February 1997. The table can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

It is estimated that the steady state caseload of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be approximately one million. However, this estimate is subject to significant behavioural uncertainty and is dependent on the exact policy design and future decisions made by the Commission. It is therefore not possible to give quarterly estimates due to these dependencies.

The research report "Summary of Child Maintenance Redesign Survey—Indications of future behaviour and choices" was published on 22 June and provides further evidence to underpin the planning assumptions. The Department for Work and Pensions is currently conducting further research to assess demand for the services that the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will offer through the Relationship Separation Survey which is due to be published in spring 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much outstanding liability there is in respect of *(a)* interest under the Child Support (Arrears, Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/1816) and *(b)* fees under the Child Support Fees Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/3094). [143039]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much outstanding liability there is in respect of *(a)* interest under the Child Support (Arrears Interest and Adjustment of Maintenance Assessments) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/1816) and *(b)* fees under the Child Support Fees Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/3094).

The Child Support Fees Regulations 1992 , S.I. 1992/3094 were repealed in 1996 and the Agency no longer charges interest on arrears of child support maintenance. As at March 31March 2006, £1.966 million in interest has been charged on outstanding maintenance.

Fees under the Child Support Fees Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992/3094) have not been charged since the 1994-95 financial year as the Agency no longer has the powers to charge interest since the powers to do so were repealed in 1996. As at 31 March 2006 the outstanding balance on fees recoverable from non-resident parents was £12.35 million.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how the 100 parents with care written to by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in June 2007 informing them that their non compliant non-resident parent's name would be displayed on the CSA website unless they objected were selected; [143588]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to parents with care which informed them that their non compliant non-resident parent's name would be displayed on the Child Support Agency (CSA) website unless they objected. [143589]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how the 100 parents with care written to by the Child Support Agency (CSA) in June 2007 informing them that their non compliant non-resident parent's name would be displayed on the CSA website unless they objected were selected (143588), and

If he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to parents with care which informed them that their non compliant non-resident parent's name would be displayed on the Child Support Agency (CSA) website unless they objected (143589).

The Agency identified those non-resident parents who were successfully prosecuted from January to March 2007 for either supplying incorrect information or failing to provide information.

We did not write to the parents with care where our records indicated that there was a possibility that the non-resident parent was potentially violent, where the case status was 'closed' or where there was insufficient contact details for the parent with care.

I have placed a copy of the letter sent to the parents with care in the Library, as requested.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time has been for child maintenance payments to be processed by the Child Support Agency and made available to the parent with care in the last 12 months. [143804]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time has been for child maintenance payments to be processed by the Child Support Agency and made available to the parent with care in the last 12 months.

Information is available for those cases on the Agency's CS2 computer system. Equivalent data on CSCS payments is not available.

In the year to March 2007 the average number of calendar days between a payment being cleared in the Agency's bank account and paid out to the Parent With Care was 2 days. This excludes the time taken to clear the funds on receipt from the Non-Resident Parent.

Around 32 per cent. of payments are paid out on the same day, and 93 per cent. are paid out within 7 days of the money being cleared. Unfortunately information on the maximum number of days is not routinely recorded, and therefore not readily available. We cannot provide an answer to part b) of your question.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many driving licences were seized from payment defaulters as a result of enforcement action by the Child Support Agency in each year since the sanction was introduced. [144061]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many driving licences were seized from payment defaulters as a result of enforcement action by the Child Support Agency in each year since the sanction was introduced.

The power to withdraw driving licences was brought into effect on 2 April 2001 (under the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000). The court, not the Agency selects the withdrawal of driving licences, committal to prison or a suspended sentence following a successful action brought by the Agency.

The information provided in the attached table, relates to the total driving licence sentences passed for the United Kingdom. Prior to 2002, the Agency did not maintain a robust system for reporting sentences. The Agency's system for reporting includes sentences passed for England, Wales and Scotland.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Numbers of Committals and Driving Licences

	April 2002 to March 2003	*April 2003 to March 2004*	*April 2004 to March 2005*	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*February 2006 to January 2007*
Number of suspended prison sentences passed	36	107	*225	*390	*385
Number of Prison Sentences passed	4	9	*5	*15	*40
Number of suspended driving licence disqualification sentences passed	7	9	*25	*35	*30
Number of driving licence disqualification sentences passed	1	1	*5	*5	*5

Notes:
1. The figures marked with an asterix are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
2. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
3. The figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest figures published available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents with care written to by the Child Support Agency (CSA) have not agreed to have the details of their non-compliant non-resident parent displayed on the CSA website. [144120]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Parents with Care written to by the Child Support Agency (CSA) have not agreed to have the details of their non-complaint Non-Resident Parent displayed on the CSA website.

The Agency, as part of the Enforcement Campaign, issued letters to parents with care on 6 June 2007, requesting their consent to name successfully prosecuted non-resident parents on the Agency website. The parent with care was asked to reply before 20 June 2007. The target date has now passed, and the Agency has the active consent to publish the names of 40 non-resident parents to date. Only 18 parents with care have actively refused to consent to the non-resident parent being named.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deductions from earnings orders sought by the Child Support Agency were *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully appealed in each month since March 2003. [144787]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incorrect *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme child maintenance assessments made in each month since March 2003 were incorrect to within (i) 1p, (ii) 10p, (iii) £1, (iv) £5, (v) £10 and (vi) £20 or more of the correct amount. [144788]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme child maintenance assessments made in each month since March 2003 were incorrect. [144789]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme child maintenance assessments made in each month since March 2003 were incorrect.

Information is only available on the proportion of incorrect assessments from March 2004. This is presented in the attached table. Information on accuracy is collected from a small sample of cases and therefore the overall number of incorrect assessments is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The proportion of incorrect assessments 2004 to 2007

Reporting Period			*Old Scheme (%)*	*New Scheme (%)*
August 2003	to	July 2004	16	19
September 2003	to	August 2004	16	20
October 2003	to	September 2004	17	20
November 2003	to	October 2004	18	21
December 2003	to	November 2004	19	22
January 2004	to	December 2004	18	22
February 2004	to	January 2005	19	24
March 2004	to	February 2005	20	25
April 2004	to	March 2005	22	25
May 2004	to	April 2005	22	25
June 2004	to	May 2005	22	25
July 2004	to	June 2005	23	25
August 2004	to	July 2005	23	25
September 2004	to	August 2005	23	24
October 2004	to	September 2005	22	24
November 2004	to	October 2005	22	24
December 2004	to	November 2005	20	23
January 2005	to	December 2005	21	21
February 2005	to	January 2006	20	21
March 2005	to	February 2006	18	20
April 2005	to	March 2006	16	19
May 2005	to	April 2006	16	19
June 2005	to	May 2006	16	18
July 2005	to	June 2006	15	19
August 2005	to	July 2006	15	19
September 2005	to	August 2006	15	20
October 2005	to	September 2006	15	19
November 2005	to	October 2006	16	19
December 2005	to	November 2006	16	19
January 2006	to	December 2006	16	20
February 2006	to	January 2007	16	20
March 2006	to	February 2007	18	22
April 2006	to	March 2007	17	21

Notes:
1. This table shows the proportion of maintenance decisions (calculations or assessments) carried out in the reporting period that were checked and found to be inaccurate by a penny or more.
2. Figures are calculated on a rolling 12 month basis
3. March 2004 is the earliest data available, and March 2007 is the latest.
4. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed cases in each London borough were held by the Child Support Agency in each of the last 12 months. [145213]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many unprocessed cases in each London borough were held by the Child Support Agency in each of the last 12 months.

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Any applications that have not yet been cleared can be regarded as outstanding. The amount of work required to achieve clearance and the elapsed time it involves varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with the Agency.

I have provided the available information on uncleared cases in the attached table. It should be noted that that an uncleared application is not necessarily the same as an unprocessed one. Uncleared applications will be at varying stages in the application processes, with very few being completely unprocessed.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Volume of uncleared applications in each London borough from April 2006 to March 2007

	2006					
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
London GOR	22,480	22,200	22,050	21,790	21,210	20,660
Inner London—West	2,420	2,360	2,320	2,280	2,220	2,180
Camden	460	450	450	450	440	420
City of London	—	—	—	10	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	510	500	490	490	470	460
Kensington and Chelsea	260	260	260	250	240	240
Wandsworth	790	770	740	720	720	710
Westminster	380	380	380	360	350	340
Inner London—East	7,670	7,470	7,340	7,210	7,000	6,800
Hackney	830	790	770	750	720	700
Haringey	880	920	890	890	850	820
Islington	690	670	640	640	620	590
Lambeth	1,440	1,410	1,400	1,370	1,340	1,320
Lewisham	1,080	1,050	1,020	990	990	950
Newham	900	870	880	860	790	760
Southwark	1,280	1,200	1,180	1,170	1,140	1,120
Tower Hamlets	580	560	560	550	560	540
Outer London—East and North East	5,130	5,260	5,290	5,300	5,200	5,040
Barking and Dagenham	840	860	850	830	800	780
Bexley	630	610	600	610	600	580
Enfield	890	970	990	980	970	920
Greenwich	940	900	920	960	960	940
Havering	470	480	460	440	440	410
Redbridge	700	720	730	730	710	700
Waltham Forest	660	740	740	750	720	710
Outer London—South	3,140	3,090	3,100	3,080	2,980	2,930
Bromley	720	700	690	690	670	660
Croydon	1,340	1,330	1,350	1,360	1,300	1,280
Kingston upon Thames	200	200	190	180	170	170
Merton	430	430	440	440	430	420
Sutton	430	430	430	420	410	400
Outer London—West and North West	4,120	4,030	4,000	3,920	3,810	3,710
Barnet	640	630	650	660	640	620
Brent	670	660	640	620	580	560
Ealing	750	740	730	700	700	680
Harrow	510	480	460	450	430	420
Hillingdon	770	750	740	710	720	710
Hounslow	620	610	600	610	600	590
Richmond upon Thames	170	170	170	170	150	150

	2006			2007		
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
London GOR	20,290	20,150	20,200	20,050	19,800	18,990
Inner London—West	2,100	2,080	2,140	2,110	2,060	1,970
Camden	420	410	430	430	420	400
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	450	420	440	440	430	410
Kensington and Chelsea	220	220	230	220	220	210
Wandsworth	680	680	700	680	660	630
Westminster	340	340	350	340	330	310
Inner London—East	6,650	6,600	6,550	6,540	6,500	6,220
Hackney	670	650	640	650	630	590
Haringey	810	810	790	780	790	740
Islington	580	590	600	570	570	530
Lambeth	1,300	1,300	1,280	1,290	1,270	1,210
Lewisham	940	930	930	950	950	920
Newham	770	730	710	680	690	660
Southwark	1,080	1,080	1,090	1,100	1,110	1,100
Tower Hamlets	510	510	510	510	500	460
Outer London—East and North East	4,970	4,950	4,950	4,900	4,860	4,690
Barking and Dagenham	780	770	790	760	770	760
Bexley	570	580	560	580	590	580
Enfield	880	870	880	840	830	780
Greenwich	920	920	900	900	900	860
Havering	420	430	440	450	450	440
Redbridge	690	680	680	680	650	630
Waltham Forest	710	700	710	700	670	660
Outer London—South	2,910	2,880	2,850	2,830	2,790	2,680
Bromley	650	630	620	610	610	590
Croydon	1,290	1,280	1,270	1,270	1,230	1,170
Kingston upon Thames	170	160	160	160	150	140
Merton	400	410	410	400	410	390
Sutton	400	400	390	390	390	390
Outer London—West and North West	3,670	3,640	3,700	3,680	3,600	3,430
Barnet	620	620	610	580	560	520
Brent	550	540	530	520	510	500
Ealing	670	670	700	710	700	680
Harrow	390	390	390	390	360	340
Hillingdon	690	670	670	680	660	640

	2006			2007		
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*March*
Hounslow	590	600	640	640	650	620
Richmond upon Thames	150	160	150	160	150	150

Notes:
1. A potential new application is cleared when it:
has had a calculation and a payment arrangement set up (new scheme only);
has had an assessment (old scheme only);
has been closed (both schemes);
has been identified as having had a good cause decision accepted (both schemes);
has been identified as being subject to a reduced benefit decision (both schemes);
has been identified as a change of circumstances to an existing case, as opposed to a new application (new scheme only).
An application remains uncleared until it achieves one of the states above. It should be noted that that an uncleared application is not necessarily the same as an unprocessed one. As such, uncleared applications will be at varying stages in the application processes, with very few being completely unprocessed.
2.Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten. '—' indicates a figure less than 5.
3. This table counts applications for Child Support. Not all applications become live cases. It is not possible to quantify the extent to which the Agency's clerical new-scheme caseload is or is not included in the above numbers.
4. This table does not include those cases where the parent/person with care's residential postcode is not recorded. In some of these cases, the Agency holds a residential address without a postcode; a "contact" address; or a business address. We have excluded cases that have not yet reached the stage in the process where the postcode information has been confirmed, as it is not possible to associate them to a local authority. At March 2007 there were 35,200 cases with an 'unknown' Local Authority. This equates to 17% of all cases in March 2007.
5. The figures are subject to revision and therefore may differ slightly from previously released figures.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget will be allocated to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to allow it to assist parents in making their own private arrangements for child maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [145364]

Mr. Plaskitt: It will be up to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to decide how best to deploy its resources to meet its statutory objectives. The overall level of resources allocated to the Commission will be negotiated in the usual way as part of the Department's planning processes.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the average level of maintenance payments for two children *(a)* through the existing Child Support Agency on the new scheme and *(b)* through the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [145366]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The average maintenance liability for cases where there are two qualifying children through the existing Child Support Agency on the new scheme is £30 per week.

(b) With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency caseload will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting caseload, it is not possible to estimate the average level of maintenance liabilities that will arise.

However, the new formula has been chosen to broadly replicate the current system, although the new rates mean that non-resident parents with two qualifying children at most income levels will pay slightly more as the following table shows:

	Two qualifying children	
Weekly gross income	*2003 rules*	*Proposed rules*
£50	5	7
£150	17	20
£250	41	40
£350	55	56
£450	68	72
£550	82	88
£650	96	104
£750	110	120
£1,000	141	152
£3,000	377	392

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of child maintenance cases under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are expected to be calculated using HM Revenue and Customs gross income figures for the previous year; and if he will make a statement. [145367]

Mr. Plaskitt: Initial estimates are that in steady state around 90 per cent. of cases will have their liability based on HMRC income data or DWP benefits data.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of child maintenance cases which will have *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; how such under and overpayments will be managed; and if he will make a statement. [145368]

Mr. Plaskitt: No estimates have been made on the number of child maintenance cases that will have overpayments and underpayments under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The management of such payments will be an issue for C-MEC to consider and take steps as necessary.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision there will be for those paying maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to request in-year reviews of their maintenance liabilities when their income changes; and if he will make a statement. [145369]

Mr. Plaskitt: Immediate in-year reviews will be allowed when a non-resident parent's income changes by at least 25 per cent.

Other immediate in-year reviews will still be allowed. These will include:

The non-resident parent leaves work and goes onto benefit—or vice versa.

A qualifying child dies, or moves abroad, or starts work.

Maintenance is applied for in respect of a new child from the same non-resident parent.

An application for a variation is successful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the Child Support Agency's maintenance arrears were collected in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [145370]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much of the Child Support Agency's maintenance arrears were collected in each (a) month and (b) quarter since 1997; and if he will make a statement.

The information you asked for is included in the attached tables. Data on the old scheme was only recorded quarterly (until March 2003). Monthly figures are available from March 2003 onwards.

The Agency now collects more than double the amount of arrears payments each quarter, than in 1997. We will continue to focus on collecting arrears of maintenance during 2007/08, as we aim to increase the total maintenance collected to £970 million, collecting at least £120 million in maintenance arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

(a) The amount of monthly arrears received by the Agency in each month between March 2003 and March 2007

Monthly	*Arrears received (£ million)*
March 2003	5.5
April 2003	5.1
May 2003	5.3
June 2003	5.3
July 2003	5.6
August 2003	5.0
September 2003	5.4
October 2003	5.7
November 2003	4.9
December 2003	5.2
January 2004	5.6
February 2004	6.9
March 2004	5.8
April 2004	5.3
May 2004	5.1
Jun 2004	6.3
July 2004	5.6
August 2004	5.8
September 2004	5.4
October 2004	5.5
November 2004	6.0
December 2004	5.6
January 2005	5.6
February 2005	5.6
March 2005	6.3
April 2005	5.9
May 2005	6.5
June 2005	7.0
July 2005	7.5
August 2005	6.7
September 2005	6.2
October 2005	6.7
November 2005	7.2
December 2005	6.4
January 2006	6.9
February 2006	6.2
March 2006	7.5
April 2006	6.4
May 2006	7.9
June 2006	7.3
July 2006	7.4
August 2006	7.0
September 2006	6.7
October 2006	8.0
November 2006	7.7
December 2006	7.0
January 2007	7.9
February 2007	8.0
March 2007	9.2

Notes:
1. Arrears are accrued when the non-resident parent does not pay the full amount of regular maintenance due.
2. Monthly management information is not available prior to March 2003.
3. Monetary values are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.
4. Monthly amounts of maintenance collected (total regular and arrears) will not sum to the financial year figures published in the Annual Accounts, as they do not include end year adjustments.

(b) The amount of quarterly arrears received by the Agency in each quarter since May 1997

Quarterly	*Arrears received (£ million)*
May 1997	8.8
August 1997	10.2
November 1997	11.1
February 1998	11.8
May 1998	13.3
August 1998	13.5
November 1998	15.2
February 1999	14.6
May 1999	15.9
August 1999	16.9
November 1999	16.0
February 2000	15.7
May 2000	15.5
August 2000	15.9
November 2000	15.5
February 2001	15.6
May 2001	16.0
August 2001	16.2
November 2001	15.7
February 2002	15.4

(b) The amount of quarterly arrears received by the Agency in each quarter since May 1997

Quarterly	Arrears received (£ million)
May 2002	16.5
August 2002	16.1
November 2002	16.5
February 2003	15.7
June 2003	15.6
September 2003	16.0
December 2003	15.8
March 2004	16.4
June 2004	16.7
September 2004	16.8
December 2004	17.2
March 2005	17.5
June 2005	19.4
September 2005	20.5
December 2005	20.3
March 2006	20.6
June 2006	21.5
September 2006	21.1
December 2006	22.7
March 2007	25.1

Notes:
1. Arrears are accrued when the non-resident parent does not pay the full amount of regular maintenance due.
2. In mid 2003 the month in which this data was collected changed, therefore, there is a change in the quarterly time series between February 2003 and June 2003.
3. Monetary values are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.
4. Monthly amounts of maintenance collected (total regular and arrears) will not sum to the financial year figures published in the Annual Accounts, as they do not include end year adjustments.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* were sent to prison and *(b)* lost their driving licences for failing to co-operate with the Child Support Agency in each (i) quarter and (ii) year since April 1997. [145374]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people (a) were sent to prison and (b) lost their driving licences for failing to co-operate with the Child Support Agency in each (i) quarter and (ii) year since April 1997.

The power to withdraw driving licences was brought into effect on 2 April 2001 (under the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000).

The attached table relates to information from 2002, as prior to this the Agency did not maintain a robust system for reporting sentences. The Agency's system for reporting includes sentences passed for England, Wales and Scotland. Numbers of committals and driving licence disqualifications are not routinely collected quarterly and are not readily to hand.

Commitment to prison or disqualification from holding a driving licence is the ultimate sanction available to the courts for recovery of arrears of Child Support maintenance. If the non-resident parent is found guilty of wilful refusal or culpable neglect the court will decide which of the available sanctions is the most appropriate.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: numbers of committals and driving licences

	April 2002—March 2003	April 2003—March 2004	April 2004—March 2005	April 2005—March 2006	February 2006—January 2007
Number of suspended prison sentences passed	36	107	*225	*390	*385
Number of prison sentences passed	4	9	*5	*15	*40
Number of suspended driving licence disqualification sentences passed	7	9	*25	*35	*30
Number of driving licence disqualification sentences passed	1	1	*5	*5	*5

Notes:
1. The figures marked with an asterix are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
2. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
3. The figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest figures published available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents paid maintenance through the Child Support Agency only by deductions of up to £5 per week from benefits in each quarter since 2000-01. [145494]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents paid maintenance through the Child Support Agency only by deductions of up to £5 per week from benefits in each quarter since 2000-01 and if he will make a statement.

Such information as is available on the number of cases, which have a deduction from benefit in place from February 2000 to March 2007, is presented in the attached table. Information covering the period of December 2002 to September 04 is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of cases, with a deduction from benefit in place, from February 2000 to March 2007

Quarter ending	Cases with deduction from benefit as method of maintenance collection
February 2000	23,200
May 2000	22,600
August 2000	21,900
November 2000	21,400
February 2001	18,300
May 2001	17,600
August 2001	17,100
November 2001	16,500

Number of cases, with a deduction from benefit in place, from February 2000 to March 2007

Quarter ending	Cases with deduction from benefit as method of maintenance collection
February 2002	15,500
May 2002	15,300
August 2002	14,000
November 2002	13,700
December 2002-September 2004	n/a
December 2004	49,200
March 2005	54,600
June 2005	63,300
September 2005	71,100
December 2005	79,800
March 2006	90,900
June 2006	98,000
September 2006	103,100
December 2006	106,600
March 2007	113,200

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The data in the table covers those old-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Assessment or an Interim Maintenance Assessment; plus those new-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Calculation, or a Default Maintenance Decision. New-scheme cases being processed clerically are excluded from this analysis.
3. Robust management information covering the period December 2002 to September 2004 is not available.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve the child maintenance and support arrangements for parents with responsibility for care in situations where the non-resident parent is unemployed and is unable to provide full maintenance payments. [145514]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to improve the child maintenance and support arrangements for parents with responsibility for care in situations where the non-resident parent is unemployed and is unable to provide full maintenance payments.

The amount of child support maintenance assessed depends on the income of the non-resident parent and will therefore differ from case to case. The Agency believes parents on benefit have as much of a responsibility for their children's upkeep as those who are working. Child Support Reforms introduced in 2003 required non-resident parents on benefit to pay child support maintenance at a flat rate of £5 per week. The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill will, subject to Parliamentary approval, increase the flat-rate amount payable to parents with care, from £5 to £7 per week.

Parents with care who are also unable to work are of course eligible to claim benefit. Those on Income Support or income based Jobseekers Allowance will benefit from the Child Maintenance Premium which allows parents with care on benefit to keep a higher proportion of child support maintenance, up to £10 each week without it affecting their benefit.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were in households below *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent., *(c)* 40 per cent., *(d)* 30 per cent., *(e)* 20 per cent. and *(f)* 10 per cent. of median income in each year since 1994-95, broken down by (i) working and non-working households and (ii) household type. [135355]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* Figures on the 30 per cent. of median income threshold and any lower thresholds are not statistically robust as the sample sizes are too small.

The available information is in the following tables.

Table 1: Number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of median income, by working/not working households, before housing costs

Million

	Working households	Non-working households
1994-95	1.3	1.9
1995-96	1.2	1.8
1996-97	1.4	2.0
1997-98	1.6	1.9
1998-99	1.5	1.8
1999-2000	1.5	1.7
2000-01	1.3	1.6
2001-02	1.4	1.6
2002-03	1.4	1.6
2003-04	1.3	1.5
2004-05	1.3	1.4
2005-06	1.4	1.4

Table 2: Number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of median income, by type of household, before housing costs

Million

	Lone parent			Couple					
	In full-time work	In part-time work	Not working	One or more full-time self-employed	Both in full-time work	One or more in full-time work, one in part-time work	One in full-time, one not working	One or more in part-time work only	Both not in work
1994-95	[—]	0.1	1.0	0.5	[—]	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9
1995-96	[—]	0.1	0.9	0.4	[—]	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9
1996-97	[—]	0.1	1.1	0.3	[—]	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.8
1997-98	[—]	0.2	1.2	0.4	[—]	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.7
1998-99	[—]	0.2	1.1	0.4	[—]	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.7
1999-2000	0.1	0.2	1.2	0.4	[—]	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.6
2000-01	[—]	0.1	1.1	0.3	[—]	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5
2001-02	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.3	[—]	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5

Table 2: Number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of median income, by type of household, before housing costs

Million

	Lone parent			Couple					
	In full-time work	*In part-time work*	*Not working*	*One or more full-time self-employed*	*Both in full-time work*	*One or more in full-time work, one in part-time work*	*One in full-time, one not working*	*One or more in part-time work only*	*Both not in work*
2002-03	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.3	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6
2003-04	[1]—	0.2	1.0	0.3	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5
2004-05	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.4	[1]—	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
2005-06	[1]—	0.2	0.9	0.4	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.5

Table 3: Number of children living in households below 50 per cent. of median income, by working/not working households, before housing costs

Million

	Working households	*Non-working households*
1994-95	0.6	0.9
1995-96	0.7	0.8
1996-97	0.7	1.0
1997-98	0.8	1.0
1998-99	0.8	0.9
1999-2000	0.8	0.8
2000-01	0.7	0.8
2001-02	0.7	0.7
2002-03	0.7	0.8
2003-04	0.7	0.7
2004-05	0.7	0.7
2005-06	0.7	0.7

Table 4: Number of children living in households below 50 per cent. of median income, by type of household, before housing costs

Million

	Lone parent			Couple					
	In full-time work	*In part-time work*	*Not working*	*One or more full-time self-employed*	*Both in full-time work*	*One or more in full-time work, one in part-time work*	*One in full-time, one not working*	*One or more in part-time work only*	*Both not in work*
1994-95	[1]—	[1]—	0.3	0.3	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.6
1995-96	[1]—	[1]—	0.3	0.3	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.5
1996-97	[1]—	0.1	0.5	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.6
1997-98	[1]—	0.1	0.6	0.3	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.4
1998-99	[1]—	0.1	0.5	0.3	[1]—	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
1999-2000	[1]—	0.1	0.5	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.4
2000-01	[1]—	0.1	0.5	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.4
2001-02	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.2	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
2002-03	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.4
2003-04	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	0.3
2004-05	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.3
2005-06	[1]—	0.1	0.4	0.3	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3

Table 5: Number of children living in households below 40 per cent. of median income, by working/not working households, before housing costs

Million

	Working households	*Non-working households*
1994-95	0.3	0.2
1995-96	0.4	0.2
1996-97	0.3	0.3
1997-98	0.4	0.3
1998-99	0.4	0.3
1999-2000	0.4	0.3
2000-01	0.4	0.3
2001-02	0.4	0.3
2002-03	0.4	0.3
2003-04	0.3	0.4

Table 5: Number of children living in households below 40 per cent. of median income, by working/not working households, before housing costs

Million

	Working households	*Non-working households*
2004-05	0.3	0.3
2005-06	0.3	0.4

Table 6: Number of children living in households below 40 per cent. of median income, by type of household, before housing costs

Million

	Lone parent			*Couple*					
	In full-time work	*In part-time work*	*Not working*	*One or more full-time self-employed*	*Both in full-time work*	*One or more in full-time work, one in part-time work*	*One in full-time, one not working*	*One or more in part-time work only*	*Both not in work*
1994-95	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.2
1995-96	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.2
1996-97	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2
1997-98	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
1998-99	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
1999-2000	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.1
2000-01	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
2001-02	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1
2002-03	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
2003-04	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
2004-05	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.1	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—	0.2	0.2	[1]—	[1]—	0.1	0.1	0.2

[1] Fewer than 50,000.

Notes:

1. The information shown in the tables is for Great Britain up to 2001-02 and for the United Kingdom for 2002-03 onwards.
2. The information is based on OECD equivalisation factors and therefore will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:

Family Resources Survey.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 520W, on children: poverty, how many and what proportion of householders with less than 60 per cent. of average national income *(a)* receive tax credits, *(b)* are eligible for tax credits and *(c)* do not claim tax credits. [142781]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)".

The available information, for parts *(a)* and *(c)* of the question, is shown in the following table.

Information is not available to answer question *(b)*. I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer the Chief Secretary to the Treasury gave to him on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 830W.

Table 1: Number and proportion of households with less than 60 per cent. of median income that report receipt of tax credits: 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of households (million)	0.8	1.2
Proportion of households Percentage)	17	22

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Table 2: Number and proportion of households with less than 60 per cent. of median income that do not report receipt of tax credits: 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of households (million)	3.9	4.2
Proportion of households Percentage)	83	78

Note:

The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors, and will not be the same as any figures previously published which were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children removed from relative poverty due to payment of child support in each year since 1997. [143586]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information relating to the number of children removed from relative poverty due to payment of child support before 2003-04 is only available at disproportionate cost. For the years 2003-04 to 2005-06, estimates are given in the following table.

Number of children removed from poverty due to payment of child support

2003-04	80,000
2004-05	90,000
2005-06	100,000

Notes:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Poverty is defined here as living in a household which has less than 60 per cent. of median income on an equivalised basis before housing costs. The poverty threshold is contemporary, so is 60 per cent. of median income in that year. Figures are produced using the McClements equivalisation scale, except for 2006-07 which uses the OECD equivalisation scale. Figures are based on a survey and so are subject to measurement error; changes in the numbers between years cannot be considered statistically significant.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions policy simulation model based on family resources survey data.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 520W, on children: poverty, if he will break down the figures given by those with *(a)* two working parents, *(b)* two parents, one of whom is working, *(c)* a single parent and *(d)* other family type. [145189]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Estimates of numbers of families with children by family type and economic status who are not in receipt of tax credits and living below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income or below 40 per cent. of contemporary median income are shown.

The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors, and will not be the same as any figures previously published which were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Number of families with children not in receipt of tax credits by family type and work status 2005-06—household incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income

million

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Two working parents	0.1	0.1
Two parents, one of whom is working	0.1	0.1
A single parent	0.3	0.5
Other family type	0.2	0.2
All families with children not in receipt of tax credits	0.7	0.9

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Number of families with children not in receipt of tax credits by family type and work status 2005-06—household incomes below 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income

million

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Two working parents	0.0	0.0
Two parents, one of whom is working	0.0	0.1
A single parent	0.1	0.2
Other family type	0.1	0.1
All families with children not in receipt of tax credits	0.2	0.4

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children living in poverty were in *(a)* single parent households and *(b)* two parent households in each year since 1997. [145339]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)". The report uses 60 per cent. of median income as the low income threshold. This threshold is the internationally recognised measure of poverty.

The available information is in the table as follows.

Number of children (million) living in households below 60 per cent. of median income: Before Housing Costs

	Single parent households	*Two parent households*
1996-97	1.3	2.1
1997-98	1.4	2.0
1998-99	1.3	2.0
1999-2000	1.4	1.8
2000-01	1.3	1.7
2001-02	1.3	1.7
2002-03	1.3	1.7
2003-04	1.2	1.7
2004-05	1.2	1.6
2005-06	1.1	1.7

Notes:
1. The disaggregated information shown is for Great Britain up to 2001-02 and for the United Kingdom for 2002-03 onwards.
2. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors and will therefore not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Damages: Vaccination

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what value of vaccine damage payments was paid out in each of the last 10 years; [145089]

(2) how many individuals have received vaccine damage payments in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [145090]

(3) how many applicants there were for vaccine damage payments in each of the last 10 years. [145337]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following tables.

	Number of applicants	*Number of vaccine damage payments*	*Value of VDPs (£)*
1997-98	202	3	90,000
1998-99	135	0	0
1999-2000	90	4	110,000
2000-01	202	2	50,000
2001-02	146	3	230,000
2002-03	417	5	500,000
2003-04	165	5	410,000
2004-05	111	4	400,000
2005-06	106	5	500,000
2006-07	60	4	310,000
Total	1634	35	2,600,000

Source:
Vaccine Damage Payments Unit database

Since 1 September 2000, 898 top up payments have been made. A breakdown of amounts is not available as dates of payment were not collated in statistics.

Amount	Number of payments	Total paid (£)
£58,000	2	116,000
£61,500	26	1,599,000
£64,500	28	1,806,000
£68,000	842	57,256,000
Total	898	60,777,000

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of administering vaccine damage payments was to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public purse in the last financial year for which figures are available. [145091]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of vaccine damage payments is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 25 June 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the cost of administering vaccine damage payments was to (a) his Department and (b) the public purse in the last financial year for which figures are available.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

Vaccine Damage Payments are administered exclusively by the Department for Work and Pensions. In answer to your question, the total cost to the Department, and therefore the public purse, for administering Vaccine Damage Payments for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 was £73,549.63.

I hope this is helpful.

Departments: Advertising

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [145913]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The following table details spend on advertising campaigns run by the Department in the 2006-07 financial year.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Departmental advertising costs 2006-07	£000
Age Partnership Group	9
Age Positive	40
Targeting benefit fraud	5,418
Reducing customer error	45
The Pension Service core benefit take up	881
Winter fuel payments	343
Child maintenance enforcement	107
Jobcentre Plus promotion to Black and Minority Ethnic audience	687
Job Done	765
Jobseeker's Allowance 50+ Pilot	83
Lone parent	171

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144954]

Mrs. McGuire: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Booktrust Charity

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding his Department has provided to the Booktrust charity in each year since 2001. [142755]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* DWP supports Bookstart via the Sure Start programme. Sure Start is a joint initiative with DfES, although the funding for the programme is held within the DfES Delegated Expenditure Limit.

For details of the amount of funding, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1464W.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145304]

Mrs. McGuire: The total spent by staff in the Department is in the following tables.

(a) Credit cards. Information prior to December has been archived and can be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs.

	£
2005-06 (December to March only)	14,858
2006-07	57,431

(b) Procurement Cards—The Government Procurement Card is now DWP's preferred method of payment to support greater efficiency in low value purchasing

	£
2004-05	15,906,425
2005-06	16,852,044
2006-07	17,426,530

(c) Fuel cards—A chargecard for the purchase of fuel is provided for official vehicles only.

	£
2004-05	645,341
2005-06	634,491
2006-07	477,446

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144953]

Mrs. McGuire: Light bulbs are supplied to the Department by our Estates Partners, Land Securities Trillium under the terms of our PFI contract for serviced accommodation. As information is not collected or retained centrally on the volume of light bulbs purchased for the Department's 1,221 sites it is not possible to provide this information. It is, however, departmental policy that energy saving light bulbs are used wherever practicable.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what Executive actions each entails. [144463]

Mr. Plaskitt: Ministers have signed a number of bilateral co-operation agreements, including some formal Memoranda of Understanding, with countries including China, France, Ireland and the Netherlands. Most of these aim to facilitate exchanges of information and experience on employment and labour market policies or combating welfare fraud.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over; [143905]

(2) what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143923]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested in both questions is in the following tables:

As at 31 March each year

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Temporary part-time			
Male	208	134	80
Female	632	425	237
Registered Disabled	3	0	23
Age 55 and over	80	47	35
Temporary full-time			
Male	1,901	1,365	890
Female	2,213	1,510	1,063
Registered Disabled	18	18	170
Age 55 and over	265	200	128
Permanent part-time			
Male	3,113	3,379	3,464
Female	37,251	37,562	36,979
Registered Disabled	2,054	2,015	2,122
Age 55 and over	4,175	4,598	4,944
Permanent full-time			
Male	36,501	34,899	33,269
Female	51,652	47,875	44,505
Registered Disabled	4,752	4,407	4,564
Age 55 and over	11,368	11,533	11,272

Notes:
1. Figures in the above table are shown in headcount terms and are based on the Office for National Statistics definition.
2. Figures for 'Registered Disabled' reflect the numbers of staff who have declared a disability.

	Percentage of staff as at 31 March 2007
Male	31
Female	69
Registered Disabled	6
Age 55 and over	14

Notes:
1. Figures in the above table are based on the Office for National Statistics definition.
2. Figures for 'Registered Disabled' reflect the numbers of staff who have declared a disability.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144623]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The following table details spend on advertising and marketing campaigns run by the Department in each of the last five complete financial years.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising and communications.

Marketing and advertising campaigns	Total marketing and advertising spend (£000)	Agencies
2006-07		
Age Partnership Group	1,370	Dulay Seymour, Geronimo Communications, Evolution Print, HDC, HFW plastics, Intelligent Data services, TRG
Age Positive	642	Adams Exhibitions, Evolution Print, Geronimo Communications, TRG, Dulay Seymour, Brandam, Getyourselfnoticed
Targeting Benefit Thieves	6,568	Cheetham Bell JWT, MindShare, The Red Consultancy, GfK
Something to Declare	234	VCCP, MindShare, The Red Consultancy, Define
The Pension Service Core Benefit Take Up	2,040	EHS Brann Advertising
Winter Fuel Payments	469	PHD
Child Maintenance Enforcement	117	Chick Smith Trott, PHD, Mediacom, Fishburn Hedges
Jobcentre Plus Promotion to Black and Minority Ethnic Audience	727	Media Reach
Jobseeker's Allowance 50+ Pilot	198	Personal
Lone Parent	868	Craik Jones
Images of Disability	93	Workshop, COI, D&AD
Job Search Channels Campaign (Job Done)	1,100	Personal
Disability Discrimination Act	203	Trimedia, Rapier, Email Vision, Brahm, Solutions Research, Ipsos, Mori
2005-06		
State Pension Deferral	876	DLKW, PHD
Images of Disability	158	Workshop, Good The Agency, D&AD, BCIDN
Targeting Benefit Fraud	7,459	Leo Burnett, MediaVest
Pension Credit	910	Draft Worldwide, Delaney Lund Knox Warren, Cragg Ross Dawson and IFF
Winter Fuel Payments	1,420	PHD
State Second Pension	675	DLKW, PHD
Age Partnership Group	2,475	Dulay Seymour, Geronimo Communications, Slater Print Group, HDC, HFW plastics, Denlypraill, iSky, TNS
Age Positive	750	Adams Exhibitions, Slater Print Group, Geronimo Communications, iSky, Dulay Seymour, Brandam
National Sector Campaign	120	Kitcatt Nohr Alexander Shaw
Council Tax Benefit	743	COI, WRIS, WCRS
Images of Disability	157	Iris, Workshop, COI, Good The Agency, D&AD
Disability Discrimination Act	1,353	Rapier, Manning Gottlieb, Profero, Pollination, Citigate
2004-05		
Age Positive	615	Adams Exhibitions, Slater Print Group, Geronimo Communications, Dulay Seymour, Brandam, Prolog, Denlypraill
State Pension Deferral	115	DLKW, PHD
Disability Discrimination Act	1,856	Heresy, The Forster Company, IPSOS UK
Targeting Benefit Fraud	6,590	Leo Burnett, MediaVest
Direct Payment	11,662	MCBD
Council Tax Benefit	771	WIS, WCRS
Pension Credit	5,580	Draft Worldwide, Delaney Lund Knox Warren, Cragg Ross Dawson
Winter Fuel Payments	940	PHD, WTCS
Lone Parent Leaflet Promotion Marketing	216	Bell Design
National Vacancy Campaign	390	Kitcatt Nohr Alexander Shaw
IB Reforms Pilots	154	MM Design
Images of Disability	119	Churchill and Friend, Iris, Good The Agency, Print Design Factory, D&AD
2003-04		
Age Positive	1,247	Geronimo, Slater Print Group, Adams Exhibitions, Dulay Seymour, New Vision Imaging
Second State Pension	216	DLKW, PHD
Pension Service Awareness	906	Barkers
New Deal	5,678	RKCR, PHD
Disability Discrimination Act	141	Market Research Services: Heresy, The Forster Company
Targeting Benefit Fraud	9,362	D'Arcy, MediaVest
Direct Payment	10,905	MCBD, Zenith
Council Tax Benefit	673	WIS, WCRS
Pension Credit	12,199	Draft Worldwide, Delaney Lund Knox Warren, Cragg Ross Dawson
Winter Fuel Payments	996	PHD, WTCS
Jobseekers Direct	1,632	Kitcatt Nohr Alexander Shaw

Marketing and advertising campaigns	Total marketing and advertising spend (£000)	Agencies
IB Reforms Pilot	187	MM Design
Jobcentre Plus Customer Marketing	1,401	Publicis
National Employer Campaign	1,158	Brahm
Images of Disability	31	COI, D&AD
2002-03		
Age Positive	559	Geronimo Communications, Warrens, Iris, Daisy Seymour
Future Pensioners/Informed Choice	2,878	DLKW, PHD
Second State Persion	489	DLKW, PHD
New Deal For Musicians	33	Barkers
Disability Discrimination Act	246	Tiffany St. James, Jacaranda, Brodie Publishing, EMR, Marketiqes, COI
Targeting Benefit Fraud	769	Unity
Direct Payment	2,145	MCBD
Winter Fuel Payments	484	PHD, Ogilvy
Inherited Serps	646	MMHL, PHD
Images of Disability	13	COI

Note:
The figures provided in the table include costs relating to the delivery of advertising and marketing campaigns including for example production, media, distribution and agency costs.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145910]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has concordats with the Northern Ireland Executive in place and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141995]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145692]

Mrs. McGuire: The percentage of staff who were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years in the Department for Work and Pensions is in the following table.

	Percentage of staff over 60 years
31 March 2005	2.8
31 March 2006	3.2
31 March 2007	3.8

Note:
Percentages are a point in time at each of the specified dates.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145695]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of people recruited by the Department for Work and Pensions who were aged over 55 years and over 60 years in each of the last three years is in the following table, which also includes the percentage of the total recruits in each year.

	Number of recruits over 55 years	Percentage of total recruits	Number of recruits over 60 years	Percentage of total recruits
2004-05	301	6.3	57	1.2
2005-06	408	6.1	73	1.1
2006-07	390	6.8	78	1.4

Note:
Figures are headcount not full-time equivalent.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145285]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the 12 months to the end of May 2007, the Department for Work and Pensions launched 18 formal consultation exercises, of which seven were full public consultations, in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation, and the total cost of all consultations, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143784]

Mrs. McGuire: In the last 12 months, the Department for Work and Pensions has directly procured printing services from Remploy and also New Deal for Disabled People job broking services at a total cost of £3,002,559.

Through third party main contractors, Remploy also provides the Department with secure disposal and recycling of IT equipment; distribution and order fulfilment of printed matter; contact centre staff for print and leaflet ordering and recruitment services for catering and cleaning staff.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143109]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Official figures on the level of sickness absence in the Civil Service are reported by the Cabinet Office annually in a report titled 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service'. The last report is for the year 2005. Data for 2006 are being compiled currently and the report will be published later this year.

Average working days absence per staff-year

	Number
2001	11.1
2002	10.8
2003	11.6
2004	9.6
2005	10.1

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department and its executive agencies in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average number of sick days taken by staff members was. [143580]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the table. Official figures on the level of sickness absence in the Civil Service are reported by the Cabinet Office annually in a report titled 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service'. The latest report is for the year 2005. Data for 2006 are being compiled currently and will be published later this year.

Business	*Sickness days in 2005*	*Average days per staff year*
Jobcentre Plus	794,024	—
Pension Service	132,179	—
Child Support Agency	120,066	—
Corporate Centre	125,413	—
Disability and Carers Service	61,480	—
DWP Overall	1,233,162	—
Average working days lost (per staff year)		10.1

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145986]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a category for recording stress-related sick leave. Sick leave related to a range of metal health conditions is recorded. This includes stress-related absences, but also other mental health problems such as schizophrenia and depression.

Percentage of employees who were absent in the years 2005 to 2007 due to anxiety, depression and other mental health issues

Year ending	*Percentage absent*
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	22
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	17
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	22

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145253]

Mrs. McGuire: Two DWP-wide staff surveys have been conducted in the last 12 months: a survey of all staff in November 2006 and a sampled survey in May 2007. Smaller Pulse surveys of 1,000 people are carried out monthly between the main surveys. Overall cost is £150,000 project cost and £130,000 annual staff salary cost. This represents a unit cost of approximately £2.25 per DWP staff member per annum.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 26W, on disability living allowance, in what format the information referred to is recorded. [144764]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1739W.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend the mobility component of the disability living allowance to parents of children below the age of three years; and if he will make a statement. [143144]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* In April 2001 as a result of medical evidence, we reduced the age limit for entitlement from five to three years as the earliest point at which it can be reasonably determined whether a child's inability, or virtual inability, to walk is the result of physical disability.

Therefore we have no current plans to make further changes to the lower age limit for entitlement to the higher rate of the disability living allowance mobility component.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the ability of the new personal capability assessment contained within the Welform Reform Bill *(a)* to assess accurately patients with long-term, fluctuating conditions and *(b)* to ensure that such patients receive the support necessary to get back into employment; and if he will make a statement. [145170]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The review of the Personal Capability Assessment (PCA) will ensure that it continues to be a fair, robust and accurate assessment of limited capability for work which takes account of all conditions, including those that are long-term and the fluctuate. Testing and development of the PCA is still progressing, and a report by the technical working group undertaking this work is expected to be published in the summer. Currently, the health care professionals who undertake the PCA are trained to consider the position of customers with any condition, including long-term fluctuating conditions, and this approach will be carried forward into the revised PCA when it is introduced for the purposes of employment and support allowance in 2008.

The revised PCA will bring structured help to support and encourage a return to work by exploring a person's ability to engage with back to work support provided by the Pathways to Work programme and the various health or workplace interventions.

Employment: Qualifications

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he provides to employers on procedures for checking the authenticity of qualifications claimed by job applicants. [143983]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department does not provide guidance to employers on checking qualifications of job applicants. Information on checking references and qualifications of job applicants is available from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS).

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the additional £6 billion to be paid into the Financial Assistance Scheme he estimates will be spent annually over the next five years. [130359]

James Purnell *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The following table sets out the estimates of the additional and total cost of providing FAS at the level announced by the Chancellor on 21 March 2007. The total figure does not take into account 2007-08.

Annual cash costs to 2012-13

£ million

	Current FAS allocation	*Additional cost of Budget extension*	*Total cost of the Budget extension*
2008-09	29	11	40
2009-10	39	14	53
2010-11	45	14	60
2011-12	49	15	64
2012-13	51	17	68
Total[1]	212	72	284

[1] Figures may not sum to the total because of rounding.

Note:
Annual cost figures are rounded to the nearest £1 million.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* legal fees for the Financial Assistance Scheme in each month since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [136631]

James Purnell: The Financial Assistance Scheme was announced in May 2004. Information on monthly expenditure is not available in comparative terms covering the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. However, total expenditure on administration in 2004-05 was £1.06 million, in 2005-06 £4.73 million and in 2006-07 £3.988 million. One-off legal fees of £2,089 arose in March 2005.

Figures for 2006-07 are in the following table. In addition to administration costs these also include IT design and implementation costs and ongoing IT running costs.

Financial year 2006-07	*Monthly expenditure (£)*
2006	
April	144,542
May	198,464
June	159,827
July	617,991
August	170,832
September	169,283
October	278,945
November	426,418
December	587,300
2007	
January	229,627
February	232,785
March	771,628
Total April 2006 to March 2007 (Actual)	3,987,642
Overall total to March 2006-07	3,987,642

Figures for 2007-08 are in the following table.

Financial year 2007-08	*Expenditure (£)*
April 2007	126,436

Full Employment Agency: Scotland

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the proposed Full Employment Agency in Scotland. [144217]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have set ourselves a long-term aim of achieving a UK employment rate equivalent to

80 per cent. of the working age population. Good progress has been made in Scotland, which currently has an employment rate of 76.5 per cent.; above the UK average of 74.3 per cent. The Department will continue to work closely with all agencies in Scotland to extend employment opportunity even more widely.

There are no current plans for a Full Employment Agency in Scotland.

Health and Safety Executive: Freedom of Information

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Freedom of Information requests were submitted to the Health and Safety Executive in the last 12 months; how many were refused; and on what basis each was refused. [145669]

Mrs. McGuire: The following information has been retrieved from statistics HSE has provided to the Ministry of Justice (previously known as Department of Constitutional Affairs) which have been published in the 'Second Annual Report on the operation of the FOI Act in Central Government 2006'. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

	Number
Total requests received for 2006	5,711
Information not held	1,004
Further information required in order to provide a response (advice and assistance)	69
Granted in full	2,414
Partially withheld	940
Response not yet provided	157

HSE is unable to provide a breakdown as to the why individual requests were refused, because it does not collate this information.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects his Department to complete the evaluation of the Working Futures scheme. [145166]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Working Future project is led by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and East Thames (a large registered social landlord). Although the Department for Work and Pensions is supporting the project, the GLA is responsible for its evaluation.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length taken for an incapacity benefit claimant losing benefit to have his or her appeal heard was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement on his Department's plans to shorten the period between loss of benefit and an appeal hearing taking place. [144892]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit appeals: average clearance time from lodged to cleared at hearing

	Average clearance time (weeks)
1997-98[1]	23.1
2005-06	20.3

[1] Figures are not available prior to September 1997

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
2. Figures for the latest months may increase substantially as information feeds through to the Appeals Service.

Source:
100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System

The Department is continually working to improve the speed of the whole claims process, including reconsiderations and appeals. The appeals process involves a number of stages, from the lodging of the appeal, through reconsideration of the decision, to referral of the appeal submission to the Tribunals Service. The Tribunals Service is part of the Ministry of Justice. In Jobcentre Plus, the target time, from the lodging of an appeal to referral of a submission to the Tribunals Service, is 50 days. In 2006, this process took an average of 37 days.

Industrial Accidents

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of workplace deaths resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each of the last five years. [145626]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE does not hold this information in a manner allowing the question to be answered in detail without incurring disproportionate cost. Work is in hand to allow regular reporting of this information from 2007-08 onwards.

Industrial Accidents: Construction

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of workplace deaths in the construction industry resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each of the last five years. [145625]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE does not hold this information in a manner allowing the question to be answered without incurring disproportionate cost. Work is in hand to allow regular reporting of this information from 2007-08 onwards.

In response to a recent exercise to respond to an FOI request HSE prepared figures for the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 inclusive. There are still some prosecutions ongoing from these years, and we cannot give figures for 2003-04 onwards because of significant numbers of outstanding prosecutions.

The as yet unvalidated data that are available are:

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Fatal accidents	113	85	75
Successful prosecution (to date)	46	36	28
Successful prosecution (percentage)	41	42	37

Industrial Accidents: Foreigners

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of workplace deaths of non-British nationals resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in each of the last five years. [145623]

Mrs. McGuire: Workplace deaths are reportable to HSE under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2005). RIDDOR does not require employers to provide information on the nationality of an injured person. Therefore this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety: Custodial Treatment

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employer representatives were given custodial sentences for offences relating to their failure to comply with health and safety law in each of the last five years. [145670]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE's prosecution data is not recorded in a way that enables the answer to be provided in the format requested without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the limited analysis undertaken by HSE indicates that, between 1994 and 2004, 111 company directors were prosecuted, with 86 convicted under Health and Safety at Work legislation. 11 were given custodial sentences.

Industrial Health and Safety: Fines

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average fine was imposed on employers for breaches of health and safety regulations in the last period for which figures are available. [145624]

Mrs. McGuire: The average fine imposed for breaches of health and safety legislation during 2005-06 was £29,997.

Industrial Health and Safety: Foreigners

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are being taken to ensure health and safety policy in the workplace is effectively communicated to non-English speakers. [145737]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published guidance and press articles for employers on how to meet legal requirements for communicating clearly to non-English speaking workers information about risks at work, and the measures needed to avoid them. It has also set out clearly what workers should expect from employers on this, in a leaflet (produced jointly with the TUC) currently available in 24 languages, together with other leaflets on specific topics. HSE visiting staff have clear instructions on the need to address this issue at site visits.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* trade unions on health and safety concerns related to the employment of non-English speaking nationals in the building and construction industry. [145738]

Mrs. McGuire: My colleague Lord McKenzie of Luton, Minister with responsibility for health and safety, meets regularly with the Chair of the Health and Safety Commission and with the Health and Safety Executive's Chief Executive and Chief Inspector of Construction. His discussions encompass not only general health and safety issues, but those covering issues specific to construction—including vulnerable groups such as migrant workers.

Industrial Health and Safety: Hearing Impaired

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions have been made in the workplace to allow for deaf employees to carry out their work efficiently in the last five years. [145504]

Mrs. McGuire: In the last five years, the Government have significantly improved the protection afforded to disabled people, including people with hearing impairments, under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). For example, from 1 October 2004, we extended the employment provision of the Act to cover all employers and all previously excluded occupations with the exception of service in the armed forces.

The DDA requires employers to make reasonable adjustments for disabled employees or job applicants where the disabled person would otherwise be at a substantial disadvantage compared with a non-disabled person. For a deaf person, this may include installing induction loops or visual warning displays in place of, or in addition to, audible warnings.

Provision of assistance for people with a hearing impairment is available through Access to Work. As well as giving advice and information to disabled people and employers, grants are available towards the approved costs that arise because of an individual's impairment. For example, Access to Work can help pay for communication support for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment. Funding for Access to Work has increased from £51 million in 2002-03 to £64 million in 2007-08.

Updated and strengthened guidance on the provision of support workers, including communication support for deaf and hard of hearing people, was issued to all Access to Work Business Centres in December 2006. The guidance describes the types of support that may be suitable, for example sign language interpreters, lip speakers and palantypists, as well as the steps to take to establish the type and level of appropriate support.

Jobcentre Plus: Chard

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* people on incapacity benefit and *(b)* lone parents were assisted back into employment by the job centre in Chard in each of the last five years; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that job centre, and if he will make a statement; [143617]

(2) what awards have been made to the Job Centre in Chard by his Department over the last two years; and if he will make a statement; [143618]

(3) how many customers have used the job centres in *(a)* Chard, *(b)* Bridport and *(c)* Frome in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [143623]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 25 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about Chard Jobcentre. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

Information on the number of people on Incapacity Benefit and the number of Lone Parents who were assisted back into employment by Chard Jobcentre is only available from 2004. The available information is in the table below.

Incapacity benefit and lone parents placed into employment at Chard jobcentre April 2004—March 2006

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Incapacity benefit customers	80	73
Lone parents	61	49

Source:
Business Information System

Chard Jobcentre has received two Jobcentre Plus awards. The office received a South West Performance Award for the period October to December 2006. It also received a South West Regional Customer Service Award in 2007.

We do not routinely collect data on the number of customers who use our Jobcentres and, therefore, do not have actual customer numbers for Chard, Bridport and Frome Jobcentres over the last 12 months. We are analysing the number of customers using Chard Jobcentre as part of the office network review. This monitoring commenced on 21 May 2007 and is being undertaken over a six week period. Frome and Bridport Jobcentres do not form part of this review.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his recent correspondence with the hon. Member for Christchurch, in what ways the report to him from Jobcentre Plus suggested that the closure of the Christchurch Jobcentre Plus office would enable his Department to provide a better service to the residents of Christchurch than it had previously been able to provide; and what assessment he made of the conclusions of that report before making his decision to go out to consultation on the closure of that office. [144987]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 25 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the proposed closure of Christchurch Jobcentre. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Leslie Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

As our Minister of State, Jim Murphy, outlined in his letter of 15 May, this is part of the work being undertaken to review the services we provide to our wide range of customers through our network of Jobcentre Plus offices. Advances in technology and increased availability of Contact Centre facilities mean that increasing numbers of customers access our services by using the telephone or via the internet. At the same time, given the continuing pressure on our resources, it is critical that we make the most effective and equitable use of them.

The proposal for the closure of the Christchurch site reflects the low level of customers in the catchment area and the major investment of public money in the development of a new Bournemouth Jobcentre Plus office, which is located five miles away. No final decision will be made on the closure until after the six-week consultation exercise is concluded on 2 July 2007.

I hope this is helpful in clarifying the current position.

Jobcentres: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were available through job centres in West Lancashire in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [144972]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table:

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the West Lancashire parliamentary constituency

Financial year	*Number of vacancies*
2006-07	8,690

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information is only available at constituency level from April 2004.
3. Figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of jobseeker's allowance had their claims terminated on the grounds of failing to actively seek work in each of the last 10 years. [138005]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Jobseeker's allowance claims are not terminated on the grounds of failing to actively seek work although jobseeker's allowance is not paid for any period when a jobseeker has failed to actively seek work.

In order to check that jobseekers are actively seeking work, they are asked to provide evidence at their fortnightly intervention of the steps that they have taken. Each fortnight is looked at separately.

When there is any doubt, the jobseeker's evidence is referred to a decision maker. If the decision maker determines that the jobseeker has failed to actively seek work, their jobseeker's allowance award will stop for the period in doubt. That is, the jobseeker will not be

paid for that fortnight. However the claim is not terminated. Jobcentre Plus staff work with the jobseeker to ensure they are clear about what steps are required and will check those steps have been taken at the next fortnightly intervention; if so, their jobseeker's allowance will be paid. If following the sanction the jobseeker fails to attend, and after a further five days has failed to make contact, their claim will be closed, because they failed to sign.

The available information on the number of sanctions applied to jobseeker's allowance claimants is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance sanctions in Great Britain each month, April 2000 to January 2007

Thousand

	Number of referrals made for fixed length sanctions		*Number of referrals made for variable length sanctions*	
	Total	*Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction*	*Total*	*Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction*
April 2000	5.36	2.69	35.33	8.33
May 2000	5.76	2.96	40.02	9.76
June 2000	5.53	2.82	40.98	9.56
July 2000	5.18	2.60	39.62	9.35
August 2000	5.90	2.96	43.93	10.16
September 2000	5.57	2.61	40.17	9.09
October 2000	5.97	2.85	43.02	9.48
November 2000	6.39	3.01	44.59	9.91
December 2000	5.09	2.50	31.70	7.84
January 2001	5.86	2.89	43.91	10.44
February 2001	6.19	2.94	42.13	10.04
March 2001	6.83	3.26	44.26	10.65
April 2001	5.44	2.64	34.88	8.88
May 2001	5.62	2.72	38.02	9.61
June 2001	5.94	2.80	39.01	9.57
July 2001	5.94	2.82	40.25	9.80
August 2001	5.91	2.76	43.05	10.62
September 2001	4.97	2.27	34.89	8.31
October 2001	6.11	2.72	38.90	9.68
November 2001	6.08	2.80	39.54	10.24
December 2001	4.70	2.19	27.42	7.41
January 2002	4.92	2.31	37.27	9.38
February 2002	5.63	2.54	38.06	9.44
March 2002	6.04	2.77	38.09	9.75
April 2002	5.94	2.75	36.52	9.31
May 2002	6.50	3.01	39.87	10.64
June 2002	5.20	2.42	31.65	8.37
July 2002	7.14	3.30	42.50	11.24
August 2002	6.14	2.91	40.43	10.47
September 2002	5.76	2.59	40.16	10.26
October 2002	6.13	2.95	41.69	10.92
November 2002	5.66	2.71	39.35	10.11
December 2002	4.72	2.32	30.66	8.38
January 2003	5.26	2.63	39.44	10.31
February 2003	5.56	2.71	36.82	9.79
March 2003	5.78	2.81	36.60	10.04
April 2003	5.30	2.67	30.01	8.37
May 2003	5.51	2.77	29.10	8.11
June 2003	5.67	2.82	28.88	7.95
July 2003	6.19	3.14	31.69	9.00
August 2003	5.03	2.57	27.84	7.55
September 2003	5.63	2.80	30.28	8.05
October 2003	5.40	2.61	31.21	8.24
November 2003	4.87	2.35	28.35	7.60
December 2003	4.73	2.31	26.39	7.45
January 2004	4.61	2.24	30.92	8.18
February 2004	5.00	2.46	29.81	7.71
March 2004	6.02	2.98	34.84	9.39
April 20004	4.20	2.12	24.73	6.98
May 2004	4.25	2.07	24.90	6.83
June 2004	5.15	2.46	27.89	7.39
July 2004	5.18	2.61	27.54	7.52
August 2004	5.06	2.51	26.91	7.21
September 2004	5.18	2.51	28.47	7.15

Jobseeker's allowance sanctions in Great Britain each month, April 2000 to January 2007

Thousand

	Number of referrals made for fixed length sanctions		*Number of referrals made for variable length sanctions*	
	Total	*Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction*	*Total*	*Number of referrals which resulted in a sanction*
October 2004	4.89	2.38	26.65	7.13
November 2004	5.36	2.64	27.88	7.04
December 2004	4.49	2.22	23.18	6.25
January 2005	4.29	2.20	24.60	6.64
February 2005	5.06	2.60	26.35	6.80
March 2005	5.35	2.64	27.01	7.14
April 2005	5.09	2.60	25.47	6.98
May 2005	4.68	2.44	23.52	6.50
June 2005	4.99	2.50	24.35	6.62
July 2005	4.67	2.44	23.24	6.21
August 2005	4.84	2.58	23.99	6.35
September 2005	4.50	2.34	22.94	5.99
October 2005	4.29	2.23	21.96	5.76
November 2005	4.80	2.45	23.87	6.20
December 2005	4.22	2.23	18.79	5.12
January 2006	4.35	2.26	21.02	5.48
February 2006	4.75	2.47	21.82	5.40
March 2006	5.81	3.12	26.12	6.51
April 2006	4.53	2.41	18.04	4.55
May 2006	5.35	2.80	20.16	5.00
June 2006	6.03	3.15	20.69	5.12
July 2006	5.12	2.63	18.44	4.52
August 2006	5.76	2.94	20.41	4.95
September 2006	5.99	3.01	19.79	4.80
October 2006	6.89	3.29	23.27	5.48
November 2006	7.93	3.86	24.51	5.79
December 2006	6.51	3.09	18.37	4.91
January 2007	8.31	3.98	24.79	6.50

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for later months are subject to revision due to retrospection.

Source:
Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database; data are cumulative from April 2000 to current data extract date.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming jobseeker's allowance remain unemployed as a result of refusing jobs on grounds of *(a)* conscientious and *(b)* religious objections. [144093]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many claimants of income-based jobseeker's allowance have *(a)* working and *(b)* non-working partners; [145926]

(2) how many claimants of contribution-based jobseeker's allowance have *(a)* working and *(b)* non-working partners. [145927]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information on Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who have partners with full-time earnings is not available. The available information is in the tables.

Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance claimants November 2006

	Number
Claimants with a partner with part-time earnings recorded	3,700
Claimants with a partner who does not have part-time earnings recorded	90,200

Contribution Based Jobseeker's Allowance claimants November 2006

	Number
Claimants with a partner with part-time earnings recorded	*300
Claimants with a partner who does not have part-time earnings recorded	51,700

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are based on five per cent samples and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
3. Caseloads have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
4. Information is given as to whether the claimants have a partner recorded with part-time earnings or self employed part-time earnings.
5. Figures marked '*' are based on very few sample cases and are therefore subject to a high degree of sampling variation, such figures should be used as a guide only.

Sources:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Voluntary Work

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what restrictions are placed on the ability to claim jobseeker's allowance of an individual undertaking voluntary work; [144808]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to encourage individuals on jobseeker's allowance to undertake voluntary work which benefits their local community. [144809]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions concerning individuals undertaking voluntary work who wish to claim jobseeker's allowance (JSA). This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department recognises that not only does voluntary work make an invaluable contribution to society and local communities, but it can also help improve an individual's readiness for employment. In particular, those jobseekers who have been away from the labour market for some time will find a period of voluntary work not only develops important skills but also helps develop behaviours valuable to prospective employers.

For these reasons, arrangements are in place to ensure benefit recipients are not discouraged from undertaking voluntary work. Volunteers receiving any benefits can continue to perform their voluntary activity for as many hours as they wish, without affecting their benefit entitlement in any way. For JSA recipients, this is subject to the underlying conditions for JSA being met. These conditions include:

being available for, and

actively seeking work each week; and

having a Jobseeker's Agreement in force.

JSA recipients are required to be able to take up employment immediately of up to 40 hours per week. Jobcentre Plus arrangements, however, provide an important exception to this rule for people undertaking voluntary work. These volunteers must be willing and able to take up employment on being given one week's notice and to attend a job interview within 48 hours. These arrangements allow volunteers to continue to receive benefits while being engaged in voluntary work.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus advisers treat involvement in voluntary work as one of the steps a jobseeker can take to improve their chance of securing work. The steps are recorded on the Jobseeker's Agreement, used to monitor jobsearch activities and to inform any additional help that the jobseeker may require.

Low Incomes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people were living in households with *(a)* below the (i) mean, (ii) mode and (iii) median averages of income in each year since 1992 and *(b)* below 60 per cent. of each of those averages of income. [136108]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The available information is in the following tables.

Information on the modal income cannot be provided as effectively everyone has different incomes.

The median is the middle value of the income—i.e. there are 50 per cent. of the population above the line and 50 per cent. below the line.

For our income child poverty threshold we take the value of 60 per cent. of this median—the fact that we have cut this means that we have moved children from below 60 per cent. of median income to over this threshold.

The mean income is the average of all individuals and is much higher than the median, this is because of the very high incomes at the top of the income distribution moving the average upwards; the mean is largely driven by the highest incomes.

By contrast, fraction-of-median poverty lines are unaffected by the highest incomes. Instead they focus, as is appropriate for a poverty measure, on the gap between the poorest and typical families, so they are very clearly measures of poverty rather than inequality.

Table 1: People living in households below mean income: Before Housing Costs

	Number (million)	*Percentage*
1994-95	34.4	62
1995-96	34.8	63
1996-97	34.8	63
1997-98	35.1	63
1998-99	35.5	63
1999-2000	35.7	64
2000-01	36.4	65
2001-02	36.6	65
2002-03	37.4	64
2003-04	37.3	64
2004-05	37.8	64
2005-06	38.1	64

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Table 2: People living in households below 60 per cent. mean income: Before Housing Costs

	Number (million)	*Percentage*
1994-95	16.6	30
1995-96	16.5	30
1996-97	16.6	30
1997-98	16.8	30
1998-99	17.4	31
1999-2000	17.1	31
2000-01	17.3	31
2001-02	16.9	30
2002-03	17.2	30
2003-04	16.9	29
2004-05	16.9	29
2005-06	17.3	29

Notes:
1. Data are for Great Britain up to 2001-02 and for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards because the Family Resources Survey did not collect Northern Ireland data until 2002-03.
2. Figures are based on OECD equalisation factors and therefore will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Table 3: People living in households below median income: Before Housing Costs

	Number (million)	*Percentage*
1994-95	27.7	50
1995-96	27.7	50
1996-97	27.8	50
1997-98	27.9	50
1998-99	28.8	50
1999-2000	28.9	50
2000-01	29.0	50
2001-02	29.1	50
2002-03	29.2	50
2003-04	29.3	50
2004-05	29.4	50
2005-06	29.6	50

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 4: People living in households below 60 per cent. median income: Before Housing Costs

	Number (million)	*Percentage*
1994-95	10.4	19
1995-96	9.9	18

Table 4: People living in households below 60 per cent. median income: Before Housing Costs

	Number (million)	Percentage
1996-97	10.8	19
1997-98	10.9	20
1998-99	11.2	19
1999-2000	11.1	19
2000-01	10.7	19
2001-02	10.7	18
2002-03	10.6	18
2003-04	10.4	18
2004-05	10.0	17
2005-06	10.4	18

Notes:
1. Data are for Great Britain up to 1997-98 and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99 onwards. This is because we have imputed information for Northern Ireland for years 1998-99 to 2001-02 for the low-income thresholds related to the median for trend tables in HBAI.
2. By definition, the percentage of people living below median income will always be 50 per cent.
3. Figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors and therefore will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

National Insurance Contributions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on costs to the Exchequer of the cap on the level of the age-related national insurance rebates for contracted-out pension schemes for each year from 1992-93 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [141453]

(2) what the saving to the public purse has been from capping contracted-out rebates to *(a)* money purchase schemes and *(b)* appropriate personal pensions since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141179]

James Purnell: Age-related national insurance rebates are paid from the National Insurance Fund. Information on the effect of the cap on the rebates is in the following table.

Costs

£ million

	Contracted-out money purchase schemes	Contracted-out personal pension schemes
1997-98	200	600
1998-99	100	700
1999-2000	100	600
2000-01	100	600
2001-02	100	600
2002-03	[1]0	1,000
2003-04	[1]0	900
2004-05	100	700
2005-06	[1]0	500
2006-07	[1]0	400
2007-08	200	1,400

[1] Denotes where savings are less than £50 million

Notes:
1. Figures represent savings to the National Insurance Fund arising from the capping of age-related rebates.
2. Figures are for GB and are expressed cash terms rounded to the nearest £100 million.
3. Figures are consistent with long-term PBR 2006 projections.
4. Age-related rebates were not introduced until 1997-98 so had no impact on the National Insurance Fund for the period 1992-93 to 1996-97.
5. Figures for 2007-08 are based on DWP estimates. Figures before that are based on actual out-turn data but are still subject to a high degree of uncertainty due behavioural effects associated with the rebate cap.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1540W, on national insurance contributions: rebates, for what reasons the Government are expecting the number of people in contracted-out defined benefit pension schemes to fall between 2006-07 and 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [145375]

James Purnell: The reason estimates of the number of individuals contracted out in defined benefit pension schemes between 2006-07 and 2015-16 is shown to be declining, is due to a fall in the number of private sector contracted-out defined benefit schemes, and a fall in the number of such schemes open to new members. This is based on evidence from the 2004 and 2005 GAD Occupational Pension Schemes Survey.

New Deal for 50 Plus

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants of the New Deal 50 Plus left the programme for employment in each month since its inception. [140714]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* Since April 2001, over 170,000 people have gained a job while registered with new deal 50 plus.

Information on the number of people leaving new deal 50 plus who are recorded as having an immediate destination of employment, by the month they left, is provided in the table. This information is only available from February 2004.

The figures in the table do not include all people who have gained a job while registered with new deal 50 plus.

New deal 50 plus

	Number of leavers to employment
2004	
February	40
March	80
April	120
May	140
June	170
July	240
August	220
September	210
October	290
November	270
December	270
2005	
January	240
February	230
March	230
April	310
May	340
June	310
July	320
August	260
September	330
October	280
November	290

New deal 50 plus

	Number of leavers to employment
December	280
2006	
January	200
February	320
March	310
April	240
May	210
June	290
July	180
August	190
September	240
October	200
November	200

Notes:
1. Data on leavers is only available from February 2004.
2. Latest information is to November 2006.
3. Figures do not include people who have moved into employment but remain on the programme.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP from IMS (Labour Market System) data.

New Deal for Partners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Government estimate to have been eligible to participate in the New Deal for Partners in each month since 2004. [145882]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not available.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is compulsory for people who are entering the new deal for young people for the *(a)* first time and *(b)* second and subsequent times. [143568]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal for young people is a mandatory programme for participants. Those who have not found work and left jobseeker's allowance after completing the Gateway part of the programme are required to participate in one of four Options: the Employment Option; the Full Time Education and Training Option; the Voluntary Sector Option or the Environment Task Force Option. Participants will discuss and agree the most appropriate Option with a Personal Adviser, taking into account their specific needs. Although it is compulsory for participants to choose an Option, it is not compulsory for them to undertake training or choose the Full Time Education and Training Option, whether joining the programme for the first or subsequent time.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were on the new deal for young people in each month since 1998; and how many of them left the scheme for sustainable employment in each month. [145145]

Mr. Jim Murphy: People entering new deal for young people (NDYP) receive intensive help to support them into work. This is delivered through the Gateway, the NDYP Options and the follow-through period.

The available information on the number of participants on NDYP in each month, and the number of those leaving the programme in each month to sustained employment is in the table.

New deal for young people

Month of participation	*Number of participants*	*Of which, the number who subsequently left to sustained employment*	*Proportion leaving to sustained employment*
1998			
July	102,490	48,510	47.3
August	112,800	52,530	46.6
September	120,050	55,090	45.9
October	126,090	56,560	44.9
November	129,940	57,370	44.2
December	133,130	58,580	44.0
1999			
January	138,490	61,300	44.3
February	141,760	62,240	43.9
March	144,530	62,830	43.5
April	145,560	62,700	43.1
May	145,730	62,600	43.0
June	144,410	61,860	42.8
July	145,990	62,780	43.0
August	143,560	61,660	43.0
September	138,050	58,650	42.5
October	131,360	54,360	41.4
November	126,800	51,700	40.8
December	127,700	52,920	41.4
2000			
January	129,470	54,700	42.2

New deal for young people

Month of participation	*Number of participants*	*Of which, the number who subsequently left to sustained employment*	*Proportion leaving to sustained employment*
February	128,730	54,670	42.5
March	128,350	54,330	42.3
April	127,090	53,680	42.2
May	126,120	53,030	42.0
June	122,550	51,480	42.0
July	121,980	51,330	42.1
August	119,350	50,040	41.9
September	111,400	45,930	41.2
October	106,430	42,950	40.4
November	103,080	40,880	39.7
December	103,810	41,730	40.2
2001			
January	105,820	43,630	41.2
February	104,670	43,280	41.3
March	103,550	42,790	41.3
April	102,950	42,290	41.1
May	102,310	41,750	40.8
June	99,550	40,330	40.5
July	100,220	40,690	40.6
August	97,940	39,460	40.3
September	94,730	37,410	39.5
October	91,600	35,180	38.4
November	89,410	33,620	37.6
December	90,550	34,520	38.1
2002			
January	92,450	35,890	38.8
February	94,370	36,990	39.2
March	96,170	37,790	39.3
April	97,180	38,110	39.2
May	98,110	38,390	39.1
June	96,400	37,830	39.2
July	97,730	38,560	39.5
August	96,110	37,750	39.3
September	92,510	35,810	38.7
October	89,930	33,860	37.7
November	87,530	32,180	36.8
December	88,860	33,020	37.2
2003			
January	92,460	35,340	38.2
February	92,870	35,770	38.5
March	94,440	36,600	38.8
April	94,430	36,540	38.7
May	95,150	36,880	38.8
June	94,360	36,670	38.9
July	96,410	37,800	39.2
August	95,690	37,430	39.1
September	92,640	35,660	38.5
October	88,960	32,840	36.9
November	87,320	31,430	36.0
December	88,190	32,000	36.3
2004			
January	90,470	33,610	37.2
February	90,300	33,540	37.1
March	90,680	33,250	36.7
April	90,310	32,540	36.0
May	89,940	31,830	35.4
June	87,760	30,720	35.0

New deal for young people

Month of participation	*Number of participants*	*Of which, the number who subsequently left to sustained employment*	*Proportion leaving to sustained employment*
July	87,820	30,660	34.9
August	86,460	29,900	34.6
September	82,770	27,570	33.3
October	78,810	24,740	31.4
November	77,610	23,290	30.0
December	78,720	23,860	30.3
2005			
January	80,500	24,840	30.9
February	81,400	24,980	30.7
March	82,490	25,240	30.6
April	83,840	25,360	30.2
May	84,670	25,230	29.8
June	83,360	24,590	29.5
July	85,970	25,320	29.5
August	86,480	25,300	29.3
September	83,840	23,690	28.3
October	82,060	22,080	26.9
November	81,310	20,860	25.7
December	83,440	21,490	25.8
2006			
January	86,770	23,010	26.5
February	88,390	23,380	26.5
March	91,840	23,970	26.1
April	93,660	23,990	25.6
May	95,930	23,760	24.8
June	95,340	22,750	23.9
July	97,780	22,580	23.1
August	97,790	21,430	21.9
September	93,360	17,730	19.0
October	90,260	13,820	15.3
November	88,380	10,300	11.7

Notes:
1. A person participating on the programme for more than one month will be included in the table for each month that they are participating.
2. People leaving the programme to sustained employment are counted in each month for the duration of their participation on the programme, for example, a person starting the programme in January 2005, who leaves for sustained employment in May 2005, will be counted in January, February, March, April and May 2005.
3. A person is defined as leaving new deal for young people for employment if they have not returned to claim jobseeker's allowance within 13 weeks.
4. Numbers and proportions of people leaving to sustained employment in more recent months would be expected to be lower as some of these people will only recently have joined the programme and will not have had time to leave to sustained employment.
5. Information on participants is only available from July 1998.
6. Latest data is to November 2006.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, DWP

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of applicants on each New Deal programme were placed in jobs lasting *(a)* 13 weeks and under and *(b)* over 13 weeks in each region in each quarter since 1998. [140583]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information is not available on the duration of employment obtained through new deal 50-plus and new deal for partners.

Information on sustained employment through new deal for disabled people is only available to March 2006, as separate data on whether a job is sustained or not have not been collected centrally since then.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on each New Deal programme in each year since 1998; and what proportion of this expenditure consisted of administrative costs in each year. [140590]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information is not available beyond 2002-03, following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002-03 when ring-fences were removed from new deal. As a result, it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering each new deal separately. The available information is in the tables.

New deal for partners was introduced in April 1999. Costs for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are coded as 100 per cent. admin as they were either set-up costs or adviser caseload-activity only, which only incurs admin costs.

Jobcentre Plus, expenditure on new deal (total expenditure)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
New Deal for Young People	43	260	370	412	308	314
New Deal for 25-Plus	—	34	97	60	213	238
New Deal for 50-Plus	—	—	3	56	87	87
New Deal for Lone Parents	—	18	39	43	46	62
New Deal for Disabled People	—	1	22	14	10	31
New Deal for Partners	—	1	5	11	8	6
Total	43	314	536	596	672	738

Jobcentre Plus, administration expenditure on new deal as a percentage of total expenditure

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
New Deal for Young People	72	38	24	29	29	30
New Deal for 25-Plus	—	50	27	30	34	30
New Deal for 50-Plus	—	—	67	20	6	6
New Deal for Lone Parents	—	94	69	67	80	71
New Deal for Disabled People	—	100	32	50	60	48
New Deal for Partners	—	100	100	91	75	100
Total	72	43	29	33	32	32

Notes:
1. Expenditure data includes start-up costs.
2. New deal 25-plus programme includes costs associated with a mandatory Intensive Activity Period introduced in April 2001.
3. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25-plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal for partners: April 1999; new deal 50-plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001 (new deal for disabled people pilots ran from September 1998 to June 2001).
4. Costs in 2002-03 for new deal for partners are also coded as 100 per cent. Admin as all activity in that year was adviser caseload action, and did not include any contracted provision. The programme was re-launched the following year and was enhanced to offer partners the same level of help and support available through new deal for lone parents.

Source:
DWP departmental reports 2004-05, Jobcentre Plus accounts 2005-06.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been helped into employment in each year since 2001 by *(a)* the New Deal for young people, *(b)* New Deal 25 plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 plus, *(d)* New Deal for disabled people and *(e)* New Deal for lone parents. [143578]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

New deal—people into jobs since 2001

	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal 50 plus	New deal for disabled people	New deal for lone parents
2001	82,030	33,000	35,080	1,000	56,320
2002	74,400	43,580	31,840	8,190	71,200
2003	75,710	43,980	24,040	16,240	72,060
2004	73,650	41,240	23,440	29,520	83,770
2005	63,580	34,220	19,210	37,750	72,330

Notes:
1. Latest complete year information is for 2005.
2. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal for Partners: April 1999; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.
3. Information is for individuals gaining a job, not total jobs gained.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

New Deal Schemes: Disabled

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make changes to the new deal self-employment test trading scheme so that disabled people in receipt of incapacity benefit can access it. [142837]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal self-employment test-trading provision is already available to incapacity benefit recipients who are eligible through new deal for lone parents and new deal for partners. Additionally, we already have powers to offer test-trading as part of Pathways to Work, which will be rolled-out nationally by April 2008. We amended the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Regulations 1995 in 2006 to ensure that participants do not lose their incapacity benefit because of their work or earnings under test-trading.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 2005W, on pensions, what was assumed about the *(a)* mean salary

and *(b)* median salary of people eligible for auto-enrolment and choosing not to opt out, when calculating the cost to employers of auto-enrolling staff into existing open schemes on existing terms. [141467]

James Purnell: The wage assumption used to calculate the costs to employers of auto-enrolling staff into existing schemes was based upon data from the 2005 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, the derived estimates were broken down by standard industry classification and firm size. The mean salary used in the analysis was approximately £19,000. The median salary is £15,000.

These wages are lower than the national averages as employees without pensions are more likely to be low to moderate earners.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many of the estimated 10.8 million employees listed as eligible for automatic enrolment in figure 1.xi of Security in retirement: towards a new pension scheme work for employers with defined benefit schemes that are still open to new members; and how many active members there are in these schemes. [141544]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested.

However we estimate that approximately 10 per cent. of employees eligible for automatic enrolment work for employers where the defined benefit scheme is the main open option. We cannot estimate how many of these would be eligible to join that scheme.

Estimates from the Government Actuary Department[1] suggest the number of private sector employees in open defined benefit schemes is approximately 2.1 million.

[1] Government Actuary Department Survey of Occupational Pensions 2005

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the information his Department holds on the industrial classification of employers which have kept defined benefit schemes open to new employees. [141545]

James Purnell: Information on the industrial classification of employers with open occupational schemes was published in table 5.11 of DWP Research Report No. 207 "Employers' Pension Provision 2003". The publication can be found at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2003-2004/rrep207.asp

I have placed a copy of the table in the Library.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of the estimated 10.8 million employees listed as eligible for automatic enrolment in figure 1.xi of security of retirement: towards a new pension system who work for *(a)* employers who currently make no pension contributions, *(b)* employers who currently offer pension contributions worth less than three per cent. of salary, *(c)* employers who currently offer pension contributions worth at least three per cent. of salary but less than six per cent. and *(d)* employers who currently offer pension contributions of six per cent. of salary or more. [141554]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Information from another data source suggests the approximate proportions shown in the following table:

Employer contribution	*Proportion of the eligible population (percentage)*
No provision	60
0	8
0-2.99 per cent.	1
3-5.99 per cent.	10
6 per cent. or more	20

Note:
DWP analysis based on the employer pension provision survey (2005) and the annual survey of hours and earnings (2005).

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the impact on public sector defined benefit schemes of requiring automatic re-enrolment every three years. [141558]

James Purnell: Forthcoming legislation will require both public sector and private employers to operate automatic re-enrolment. The detailed framework is under development. We are giving the business processes careful consideration so that any burdens on business are minimised.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analysis his Department has undertaken comparing the different levels of pension provision recorded by the Office for National Statistics' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, his Department's Employers' Pension Provision Survey and the Government Actuary's Department's Occupational Pension Scheme's Survey; and what conclusions he has drawn. [143545]

James Purnell: The three surveys have different sample populations and provide alternative perspectives and information on pension provision and membership.

The Employers' Pension Provision (EPP) survey examines pension provision among private sector employers in Britain. Results focus on pension provision (occupational pension schemes, group personal pensions and stakeholder pension) analysed by size of employer. The survey also provides some information about the characteristics of employers that had no pension provision. This survey does not provide robust estimates of numbers of pension schemes and memberships as the interaction between employers and pension schemes is complex: some employers, particularly larger employers may have several pension schemes and some pension schemes are multi-employer schemes.

The Occupational Pension Schemes Survey (OPSS) is now conducted by the Office for National Statistics and provides information about occupational schemes for both public and private sector employers. This survey provides more robust information about the number of schemes and scheme memberships than is available from the EPP. There will be double counting of scheme members within the OPSS results as an individual employee could be an active member of one scheme, but be a deferred member or in receipt of a pension from another scheme.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides detailed information about job details, hours and earnings and employer-sponsored pension arrangements for employees. Results are used primarily to provide National Statistics estimates of average earnings, minimum wage and gender pay gap. Results from this survey provide analyses about demographic and socio-economic characteristics of pension scheme members (age, sex and income level) by scheme type which is not available from the other two surveys. This survey also provides valuable information about the characteristics of employees who are not active members of a pension scheme.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the numbers of members of workplace pension schemes (defined benefit and defined contributions) where the total contribution from employers and employees is between £3,600 and £5,000, broken down by steps of £100. [144219]

James Purnell: The numbers of members of workplace pension schemes (defined benefit and defined contribution) where the total contribution from employers and employees is between £3,600 and £5,000 are shown in the following table:

Total contribution	*Number of employees*
£3,600 to £3,699	130,000
£3,700 to £3,799	130,000
£3,800 to £3,899	140,000
£3,900 to £3,999	120,000
£4,000 to £4,099	130,000
£4,100 to £4,199	120,000
£4,200 to £4,299	120,000
£4,300 to £4,399	120,000
£4,400 to £4,499	110,000
£4,500 to £4,599	110,000
£4,600 to £4,699	110,000
£4,700 to £4,799	110,000
£4,800 to £4,899	110,000
£4,900 to £4,999	100,000

Notes:
1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Office for National Statistics). 2006 is the latest year for which the data are available. The coverage of the survey is Great Britain.
2. Results are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
3. Results only include employees aged 16 to State Pension age.
4. Results cover defined benefit schemes and defined contribution schemes only.
5. Total pension contributions include both employee and employer contributions.
6. The figures provided exclude the value of contracted-out rebates.
7. Individuals who are members of a pension scheme but where there is no information about employer or employee contributions have not been included.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

On 14 June, 2007, the Government published their summary of responses to the White Paper Personal accounts: a new way to save consultation exercise. This document contained further analysis on the personal accounts contribution limit and concluded that an annual limit of £3,600 would be an appropriate figure. Such a figure will ensure that Personal Accounts will stay focused on the target market, complementing rather than competing with existing provision, while still providing moderate to low earners with sufficient room to meet benchmark replacement rates.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer questions *(a)* 102062, *(b)* 102127, *(c)* 102163, *(d)* 102160, *(e)* 102198, *(f)* 102211, *(g)* 102219, *(h)* 102220, *(i)* 102157, *(j)* 102248, *(k)* 102259, *(l)* 102232 and *(m)* 102115, tabled on 17 November 2006, and questions (i) 103216, tabled on 21 November 2006, (ii) 104255, tabled on 22 November 2006, and (iii) 107249, tabled on 28 November 2006, by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [112148]

Mrs. McGuire: Replies were given to the hon. Member's questions as follows:

102062 on 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1174W
102127 on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 628W
102163 on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 512W
102160 on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 656W
102198 on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1205W
102211 was transferred to HM Treasury on 23 November 2006
102219 on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 642-43W
102220 on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1919-20W
102157 on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1074W
102248 on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2110W
102259 on 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 266W
102232 on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2108-09W
102115 on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 513-16W
103216 was tabled for the Department of Communities and Local Government
104255 on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1192W
107249 on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 634 -35W

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has discussed *(a)* the traffic light grading of Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* unanswered Parliamentary Questions in the last 12 months. [123121]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's aim has always been to answer Parliamentary Questions within the deadlines specified by Parliament, and no longer colour codes questions as part of their processing. Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed in order to protect frankness and candour.

Pension Credit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Pensions Service has written to in the last 12 months to encourage them to apply for pension credit. [143431]

James Purnell: During the last 12 months The Pension Service sent 2,810,002 direct mailings to our customers encouraging them to apply for pension credit.

Pension Credit: IT

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a new IT system was commissioned for the introduction of pension credit. [145086]

James Purnell: The processing of Pension Credit was delivered on an existing system, namely the Income Support Computer System. However to support the requirement for an enhanced customer experience and a targeted marketing campaign, a new Electronic Customer Relationship Management application was developed—Pension Credit Front End (PCFE). PCFE enabled the customer to provide the information required to make a Pension Credit application via the telephone, which resulted in a pre-completed application form being issued to the customer for them to return to the Pension Service.

Pension Credit: Telephone Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the running cost was of the freephone Pension Credit telephone number which advises pensioners where to send their Pension Credit application form in the latest period for which figures are available. [138035]

James Purnell: The Pension Credit Application Line (PCAL) is for people over the age of 60, or those approaching 60, who wish to apply for or make an enquiry about pension credit.

The service supplied by BT, under contract to DWP, delivered the infrastructure (networks, hardware and software) required to deliver the PCAL operation from an advanced telephony contact centre. Telephony services include advanced call routing (to deliver calls to the appropriate agent), management information in real time via wallboards and via historic reporting, call records (that make it easier to trace a call) and call recording (for quality and monitoring purposes). This service is backed up by appropriate service levels for availability and incident fix times.

The total number of calls the pension credit application line (0800 991234) received for the six months, 12 September 2006 to 11 March 2007 was 517,624. The total telephone charge for this period was £759,450.

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of eligible pensioners in Stoke-on-Trent who do not claim council tax benefit; and what steps he is taking to reduce this number. [145353]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits: income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) in Great Britain can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004-05". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

We are taking steps to improve awareness and take-up of benefits for specific groups. For example, The Pension Service is undertaking a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit, including writing to everyone who may have an entitlement and encouraging them to apply. All pensioners applying for pension credit can now access housing benefit and council tax benefit over the phone at the same time.

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to protect the assets of pension schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets, pending the outcome of the review he has established. [137976]

James Purnell: It is not for the Government to offer advice to trustees on whether and when they should purchase annuities. Trustees must act in the best interests of their members and in accordance with scheme rules and their statutory obligations. The government would not want to issue advice that may conflict with these responsibilities in some circumstances. It is important that trustees continue the process of winding up including data cleansing and determination of asset shares. They may, however, wish to consider whether it is in the best interest of their members to purchase annuities ahead of the interim findings of the assets review which have been promised in the summer.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the scope will be of the initial report to be published this summer on pension scheme assets held by schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets. [143544]

James Purnell: The focus of the review is to examine how we make best use of the assets in pension schemes that are winding up under funded with an insolvent employer or who come within the extension for solvent employers whose schemes signed a compromise agreement. The intention of the review is to determine how these or other sources of non-public expenditure funding (that have not already been allocated) could be used to increase assistance for affected scheme members.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on pensions, how employer contributions to funded defined benefit schemes were apportioned to individual employees when calculating the number of employees with combined employer and employee contributions in excess of £5,000; and whether special contributions aimed at reducing pension deficits are included in these calculations. [144528]

James Purnell: Results published in the table at column 365W of the *Official Report* for 19 February 2007 were produced using data from the annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE). ASHE collects for individual employees their pensionable pay and the pension contribution amounts made by them and their employer for a pay period in April, and no apportioning to individuals is therefore necessary. For

the 2005 survey special contributions were not explicitly excluded from the data collection. However, such payments made as lump sums that cover more than one employee cannot be easily attributed to an individual and so are not in scope of the ASHE survey. In addition as the survey collects data for a specific period in April it does not cover pay exclude the majority of special contributions made in that year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* contracted in and *(b)* contracted out (i) defined benefit and (ii) defined contribution pension schemes in each year from 1997-98 to 2020-21; if he will break down his estimate for defined contribution schemes between (A) occupational schemes and (B) personal pensions; and if he will make a statement. [145361]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. Information as is available is in the following tables.

Table A: contracted-out scheme membership

	Type of contracted-out scheme		
		Defined contribution	
	Defined benefit	Occupational	Personal
1997-98	7.6	0.8	3.5
1998-99	7.7	0.8	3.5
1999-2000	7.6	0.7	3.5
2000-01	7.8	0.7	3.5
2001-02	7.7	0.7	3.5
2002-03	7.6	0.6	3.3
2003-04	7.6	0.6	2.9
2004-05	7.6	0.5	2.7
2005-06	7.6	0.4	2.3
2006-07	7.6	0.4	2.0
2007-08	7.5	0.3	1.3
2008-09	7.5	0.3	1.2
2009-10	7.4	0.3	1.1
2010-11	7.3	0.3	1.1
2011-12	7.2	0.2	1.0
2012-13	7.1	0.0	0.0
2013-14	7.0	0.0	0.0
2014-15	6.9	0.0	0.0
2015-16	6.8	0.0	0.0
2016-17	6.7	0.0	0.0
2017-18	6.7	0.0	0.0
2018-19	6.6	0.0	0.0
2019-20	6.5	0.0	0.0
2020-21	6.4	0.0	0.0

Notes:
1. Figures are for UK and are shown in millions.
2. Figures for defined contribution personal pension schemes include stakeholder pension schemes.

Source:
Actual figures derived from Second Tier Pension Provision Statistics for 1996-97—2003-04 and DWP estimates thereafter

Table B: contracted-in occupational scheme membership

	Type of contracted-in scheme	
	Defined benefit	Defined contribution
2000	0.20	0.70
2004	0.60	0.39

Table B: contracted-in occupational scheme membership

	Type of contracted-in scheme	
	Defined benefit	Defined contribution
2005	0.70	0.44

Notes:
1. Figures are for UK and are shown in millions
2. Figures for defined contribution personal pension schemes include stakeholder pension schemes
3. Information on the number of people in contracted-in personal pension schemes is not available.

Source:
Government Actuary's Department Survey of Employers' Pension Schemes, 2000, 2004 and 2005

Pensions: Advisory Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Pensions Service follow-up procedure is once a home visit has been carried out. [141832]

James Purnell: The Pension Service local service was developed to provide face-to-face access for our customers, including home visits. Following a home visit, applications for pension credit are sent to the appropriate pension centre for processing. Applications for other benefits or entitlements are forwarded to the appropriate authority for consideration.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of the Pensions Service are deployed on undertaking home visits. [141833]

James Purnell: The Pension Service local service employs 1,728 staff to carry out home visits. Due to various working patterns such as part year contracts and reduced hours, this figure equates to 1,545.76 whole time equivalent staff.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many home visits a member of the Pensions Service visit teams is expected to undertake on average over the course of a year. [141834]

James Purnell: There are no targets for the number of visits undertaken by a member of local service visit teams.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the local partners with which the Pensions Service has been working in its efforts to identify harder-to-reach customers. [141877]

James Purnell: As well as national voluntary sector organisations such as Age Concern and Help the Aged, the Pension Service also works closely with numerous local groups and representatives. As these are community based there is no definitive list held.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Pensions Service follow-up procedure is once a pensions forecast has been provided. [141879]

James Purnell: The Pension Service does not initiate any follow up action with pension forecast customers.

Pensions: Budget March 2007

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials first learned of changes in the Budget 2007 which would affect (i) the reforms to the state second pension in the Pension Bill and (ii) his proposals for the personal accounts earnings band. [144218]

James Purnell: In the period leading up to Budget 2007 Ministers and officials from the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Treasury were in frequent contact, including on a range of pension measures. In addition, in line with the normal Budget convention regarding tax matters, the Paymaster General wrote to DWP Ministers on Budget Day to confirm the changes. DWP and HMT officials are currently working together to implement these changes.

Pensions: Compensation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of the use of unclaimed assets in the financial sector as a source of compensation for people who have lost pension savings as part of his review of pension scheme assets. [136023]

James Purnell: The focus of the assets review is to examine how we make best use of the assets in pension schemes that are winding up under funded with an insolvent employer or who come within the extension for solvent employers whose schemes signed a compromise agreement. The intention of the review is to determine how these or other sources of non-public expenditure funding (that have not already been allocated) could be used to increase assistance for affected scheme members. The review will be open to any suggestions from interested and concerned parties, including those made by the hon. Member. The review will provide an initial view in the summer, consult formally in the autumn and then report by the end of the year.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the level of Pension Protection Fund benefits to all those in the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), including those who have lost their pensions but who fall below the age cut-off for the FAS *(a)* in net present value terms using 2006-07 prices and *(b)* in cash terms for each year from 2007-08 to 2060-61; what allowance has been made in these estimates for reduced means-tested benefit payments and higher tax yields; and if he will make a statement. [121447]

James Purnell: We estimate that it will cost £2.5 billion in net present value terms (in 2006-07 prices) over the next 60 years to extend the level of Pension Protection Fund benefits to all those in the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), including those who have lost their pensions but who fall below the current age cut-off for the FAS. This represents an additional £640 million in net present value terms on the costs of the extended FAS as announced in the Budget 2007.

The impact of FAS payments on means-tested benefits and income tax payments will depend on the total incomes of potential FAS recipients, which cannot be reliably projected. As a result, no allowance has been made for these in the estimates.

The additional annual cost of this in cash terms (in 2006-07 prices) compared to the budget extension is presented in the following table.

Additional annual cash costs of providing PPF benefits to everyone in FAS compared to the Budget Extension

	Cash (£ million)
2007-08	156
2008-09	9
2009-10	6
2010-11	7
2011-12	15
2012-13	25
2013-14	28
2014-15	32
2015-16	35
2016-17	39
2017-18	42
2018-19	44
2019-20	44
2020-21	48
2021-22	51
2022-23	54
2023-24	57
2024-25	60
2025-26	64
2026-27	66
2027-28	69
2028-29	72
2029-30	74
2030-31	76
2031-32	78
2032-33	79
2033-34	79
2034-35	80
2035-36	80
2036-37	79
2037-38	78
2038-39	76
2039-40	74
2040-41	71
2041-42	68
2042-43	66
2043-44	63
2044-45	60
2045-46	57
2046-47	54
2047-48	51
2048-49	47
2049-50	44
2050-51	41
2051-52	38
2052-53	35
2053-54	32
2054-55	29
2055-56	26
2056-57	24
2057-58	21
2058-59	19

Additional annual cash costs of providing PPF benefits to everyone in FAS compared to the Budget Extension

	Cash (£ million)
2059-60	16
2060-61	14

[1] 2007-08 figure is high because it includes the cost of paying arrears for 2004-05 to 2006-07. It is assumed that the FAS Operational Unit is able to pay all those eligible for FAS as soon as they turn 65.

Notes:

These sums refer to the amount that would be required to replicate—as far as possible—the benefits the PPF provides within the administrative structures of FAS.

Costs are rounded to the nearest 1 million and expressed in 2006-07 prices.

These estimates have made no allowance for reduced means-tested benefit payments or higher tax yields.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential role of the Financial Assistance Scheme in helping occupational pension schemes in wind up to get their data department in order to accelerate the assessment phase of the process. [141883]

James Purnell: Currently the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit (FASOU) offers support and guidance to individual trustees or administrators to help improve the quality of the data being provided to them. In the last year the FASOU has visited 34 trustees and administrators, (who are responsible for over 50 per cent. of qualifying schemes) to discuss these issues and clarify FAS requirements.

FASOU is also working with external experts, in particular Mercers, to deepen staff understanding of pension schemes; particular processes and issues.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1745W, which pension funds now eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme had previously declared a pensions holiday. [145376]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Pensions: Forecasts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received combined pension forecasts in the last year for which figures are availa[illegible] [141546]

James Purnell: From April 2006 to March 2007 the Pension Service has provided information to employers and other pension providers to enable them to issue 4,382,761 combined pension forecasts to their employees and customers.

Pensions: Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people retiring in the past 12 months and gaining a full retirement pension had *(a)* one to five, *(b)* six to 10 and *(c)* 11 to 15 years national insurance credits as a result of claiming incapacity benefit. [144727]

James Purnell: Figures are not currently available on the number of people retiring over the past 12 months and gaining a full retirement pension who have received national insurance credits as a result of claiming incapacity benefit.

The most recent figures on national insurance contributions held by the Department for Work and Pensions relate to those retiring in the 2004-05 year, and are detailed in the table.

The table details the number of people retiring in 2004-05, gaining a full retirement pension, having had full years national insurance credits in each qualifying year as a result of claiming incapacity benefit.

Number of people retiring in 2004-05 gaining a full retirement pension having had national insurance credits as a result of claiming incapacity benefit

Number of years of credits as a result of claiming incapacity benefit	Number retiring in 2004-05 with full retirement pension
1 to 5	13,300
6 to 10	36,300
11 to 15	0
Total	49,600

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Lifetime Labour Market Database 1 per cent. sample of the National Insurance Recording System.

Personal Accounts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in qualitative work sponsored by his Department mentioned during his Department's survey work on the proposed personal accounts an interest in investing in social, ethical or environmental funds *(a)* spontaneously and *(b)* after prompting. [143549]

James Purnell: In early 2006, the Department carried out in-depth qualitative research on public attitudes to personal accounts[1]. Some of the younger participants in this research (aged 20 to 34) spontaneously said that they felt it was important that they are able to invest their money ethically. Respondents were not specifically prompted about whether they were interested in investing in social, ethical or environmental funds. Qualitative research identifies the range of views and experiences people hold and provides insight into attitudes and beliefs. It does not provide statistics, so it is not valid to give numbers of participants who expressed a particular view.

[1] This research was published in the Department's research report series; Hall S, Pettigrew N and Harvey P, 2006, Public attitudes to personal accounts: Report of a qualitative study, DWP Research Report No. 370

Personal Income

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 350W, on low incomes and *(b)* 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 465W, on personal income, if he will place in the Library the datasets corresponding to the Households Below Average Income—income distribution graphs, figures 2.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1. [145179]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)". The report uses 60 per cent. of median income as the low income threshold. This threshold is the internationally recognised measure of poverty.

The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors and will therefore not be on the same basis as any figures that were based on McClements equalisation factors.

Personal Savings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what terms the proposed £10,000 limit on contributions to personal accounts in their first year of operation is expressed. [141531]

James Purnell: On 14 June 2007 the Government published their response to the consultation on the White Paper Personal Accounts: a new way to save. This put forward a proposal for a £10,000 limit on contributions in the first year of the personal accounts scheme in order to encourage saving prior to the introduction of personal accounts in 2012. However, we will continue to work with others across Government, the financial industry and consumer representatives to explore how we can best encourage people to save prior to 2012.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of the 5.7 million employees identified on page 94 of the regulatory impact assessment to Personal Accounts: a new way to save as being offered contributions greater than 6 per cent. who are *(a)* non-members of these schemes but eligible to join and *(b)* non-members of the schemes who are not currently eligible to join. [141543]

James Purnell: The data requested are not available.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what terms the £5,000 annual limit on contributions proposed in Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save is expressed. [141532]

James Purnell: The personal accounts White Paper "A New Way to Save" consulted on an annual contribution limit of £5,000. The summary of responses, published on 14 June 2007, contains detail on both the level of the limit and also how it is to be designed. After further analysis, the Government believe that a contribution limit of £3,600 balances the need to focus personal accounts on the target market and the need to allow individuals to save flexibly for their retirement.

Remploy: Contracts

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts have been awarded under the Public Procurement Regulations 2006 to *(a)* Remploy and *(b)* other supported employers. [145749]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has not awarded any new contracts to *(a)* Remploy and *(b)* other supported employers under the Public Procurement Regulations 2006.

The Department has not entered into any new contracts since the 2006 regulations, with either Remploy or other supported employers but we have extended Remploy's two existing contracts twice from April 2006 to March 2007 and from April 2007 to March 2008. They were also successful in a recent limited competition in winning extra NDDP business (volumes) within their existing contracts.

Sea Containers: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Sea Containers, based in Bermuda, properly funds its UK-based pension schemes; and if he will make a statement. [145402]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the Pensions Regulator.

I understand that following an oral hearing before the Pension Regulator's Determinations Panel on 12 and 13 June 2007, the panel determined that a financial support direction should be issued requiring Sea Containers Ltd. to put in place financial support for the two pension schemes of its UK based subsidiary. This is the first time that the Regulator has used its financial support powers which were introduced in the Pensions Act 2004 to ensure that, when it is reasonable, companies cannot leave a pension scheme with a service company or weak member of the group without guaranteeing the pension promise.

The Financial Support Direction will come into effect 28 days from the date of the determination notice or, if an appeal is made to the Pensions Regulator Tribunal, from the date of determination of that appeal. Any person that appears to be directly affected by the determination may appeal to the Pensions Regulator Tribunal within 28 days of the determination notice being issued.

Self-Employed: Disabled

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is available to disabled people in receipt of incapacity benefit wishing to become self-employed. [141667]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We already have powers to offer training to disabled people in receipt of incapacity benefit through New Deal for Disabled People and Pathways to Work. Pathways to Work will be rolled out nationally by April 2008, primarily via the private and voluntary sectors in 60 per cent. of the country. Contracts will not specify exactly what programme of support should be available, enabling providers to offer innovative work-focused support which is tailored to the needs of individual customers and could potentially include self employment training.

Further assistance may also be available from Jobcentre Plus, which offers a wide range of practical and financial help to assist customers, such as career development loans. Specially trained personal advisers are available to discuss with customers any barrier that is preventing them from starting self-employment. They also provide a booklet 'Work For Yourself' which gives advice and information on starting a small business or arranging a franchise.

They are also able to give advise on further sources of support; including The Prince's Trust, Business Link, Training for Work in Scotland and Work Based Learning in Wales.

In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) offers a wide range of small business support information and packages, including a small suite of grants, loans guarantees and subsidised consultancy to address a range of business issues. They also have information about finance and grants for starting up and developing a small business and can provide practical support for the key stages of innovation or research and development and helps businesses to become more efficient, competitive and profitable.

Severe Disablement Allowance

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of severe disability allowances; and what expenses such allowances are intended to cover. [145001]

Mrs. McGuire: At November 2006, there were 2,845,750 disability living allowance (DLA) cases in payment and 1,679,360 people entitled to attendance allowance, which includes those who have had payment of their benefit suspended, for example because they were in hospital.

DLA and AA are the main benefits paid by this Department to people with severe disabilities. These benefits are intended to provide a contribution towards the general extra costs faced by severely disabled people as a result of their disabilities, allowing recipients to use the benefit according to their own priorities.

Severe Disablement Allowance: Eligibility

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department uses to determine severe disablement; and what definition of severe disablement is used. [145000]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not use one specific definition to determine severe disability. A range of benefits are available to people with disabilities, and definitions of disability are dependent on the benefit being claimed and reflect the purpose of that benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled People

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how benefits for disabled people are adjusted to take into account increases in the cost of living; and whether such adjustments reflect increases in the cost of fuel and its impact upon heating costs. [144999]

Mrs. McGuire: Benefits such as disability living allowance and attendance allowance are increased every April by the rate of inflation as measured by the movement in the retail prices index (RPI). In calculating the RPI, account is taken of price changes in a wide range of goods and services, which includes the cost of fuel and heating.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of the most expensive organised fraud against the benefit system since 1 May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [145246]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish his Department's rules for deciding whether overpaid benefits should be recovered from claimants where the overpayment has resulted from departmental error, including staff error; and if he will make a statement. [144883]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where someone receives public money to which they are not entitled we have a duty to seek recovery, even if the overpayment was caused by an official error. I have arranged for the relevant guidance to be placed in the Library.

State Retirement Pension: National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total net cost of bringing forward the new rules for the number of years of national insurance required to qualify for a full basic state pension from April 2010 to *(a)* April 2001, *(b)* April 2005, *(c)* April 2006 and *(d)* April 2007 in each year from 2001 to 2030; how many additional people in each year would receive a full basic state pension as a result; and if he will make a statement. [144114]

James Purnell: The information requested is not currently available. However, the estimated net costs of bringing forward the new rules for the number of years of national insurance required to qualify for a full basic state pension from 2008 are given as follows.

	Net cost (£ million)
2008	50
2009	140
2010	170
2011	170
2012	170
2013	160
2014	160
2015	150
2016	150
2017	140
2018	140
2019	130
2020	130
2021	120
2022	120
2023	120
2024	110
2025	110
2026	100
2027	90

	Net cost (£ million)
2028	80
2029	80
2030	70

Notes:
1. Estimates in 2007-08 prices, UK and overseas.
2. Estimates rounded to the nearest £10 million.
3. Estimates are net of savings in income related benefits but do not include any savings from tax increases.

Estimated additional beneficiaries in Great Britain of a full basic state pension

	2008	2009
Men	25,000	25,000
Women	75,000	70,000
Total	100,000	95,000

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions the Government has made in its costings of a Universal Enhanced State Pension, with offsetting of accrued rights to the State Earnings Related Pension and the State Second Pension, in respect of the relationship between the level of pensions paid to single pensioners and couples; and if he will make a statement. [144994]

James Purnell: The proposal for a Universal Enhanced State Pension was made by the Pensions Commission. The costs and assumptions behind it are set out in the Commission's Second Report "A New Pension Settlement for the Twenty-First Century".

Unemployment Benefits: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on benefits for unemployed people in Warrington *(a)* for the year ending March 1997 and *(b)* in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by type of benefit. [145476]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is in the following table.

Spend on benefits for unemployed people in Warrington. (Warrington, North and Warrington, South parliamentary constituencies)

£ million

	1996-97	2006-07
Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based)	3.5	4.7
Jobseeker's Allowance (Contribution based)	1.0	2.0
Unemployed Benefit	1.2	—
Income Support for the unemployed	4.9	—

Notes:
1. Figures are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Figures are consistent with Budget 2007.
3. Unemployed Benefit and Income Support for the unemployed were benefits prior to Jobseeker's Allowance which were paid in 1996-97 along with Jobseeker's Allowance which was introduced in October 1996.
4. Figures are based on 5 per cent. samples and are therefore subject to sampling variation.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples and DWP Expenditure tables

Winter Fuel Payments: Disabled People

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration his Department has given to the extension of the winter fuel allowance to disabled people. [145002]

James Purnell: We have no plans extend winter fuel payments to disabled people aged under 60. Help is already available through disability benefits and the disability premium in income-related benefits in recognition of the extra costs, including heating, which disabled people may have.

Written Questions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question *(a)* 122108 and *(b)* 122109, tabled for answer on 22 February 2007 by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead, on 18 to 24 year olds who are not in employment, education or training. [128542]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: Replies were given to my right hon. Friend's question number 122108 on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1830W and to question number 122109 on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2248W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer Question *(a)* 138125, tabled on 15 May 2007, on Pension Credit, *(b)* 121447, tabled on 8 February 2007, on the Financial Assistance Scheme, *(c)* 102309, tabled on 20 November 2006, on council tax and *(d)* 102211, tabled on 17 November 2006, on Incapacity Benefit, by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [144922]

Mr. Plaskitt: The hon. Member's question 138125 was replied to on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1742W. Question 121447 was replied to today, 25 June 2007. Question 102309 was transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government and question 102211 was transferred to HM Treasury.

TRANSPORT

A21: Construction

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the construction of the A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Hurst Green; and if he will make a statement. [145660]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has no plans at present to upgrade the A21 between Flimwell and Hurst Green.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has provided for the construction of the A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Hurst Green. [145661]

Gillian Merron: None. The proposed A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Hurst Green has not been prioritised by the South East region as part of its advice to Ministers on projects to be funded by the Regional Funding Allocation for the period up to 2016.

A38: Safety Measures

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make changes to the slip road off the A38 at Lee Mill as a matter of urgency to reduce the risk of motorists entering it from the wrong direction. [145191]

Dr. Ladyman: The layout of the road at this junction is designed to discourage road users from entering from the wrong direction. In view of the recent fatal accident that has taken place on the A38 near this junction, the Highways Agency wish to review the outcome of police investigations and consider whether further enhancements to the road layout are necessary.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure greater safety at the Deep Lane junction at Plymouth on the A38. [145192]

Dr. Ladyman: Site work is currently under way to improve the capacity and safety of Deep Lane junction. As a result of identifying an increased accident rate, a safety study is also to be carried out at the westbound on-slip road. In addition, major improvements to the junction are proposed which will accommodate a growth in demand from nearby developments.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to assess the safety of the informal junctions on the A38 at Lyneham, Cadleigh and Choakford as a matter of urgency. [145193]

Dr. Ladyman: These junctions currently serve small local communities and have a relatively good safety record. They will continue to be monitored closely and action taken as necessary. Closure of the eastbound on-slip at Lyneham (Voss Farm) is imminent in order to prevent use by construction vehicles from Langage Power Station.

Aviation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people who took *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three or four and *(e)* five or more single or return flights (i) in total, (ii) to UK destinations, (iii) to European destinations and (iv) to worldwide destinations in the last 12 months, broken down by (A) income quintile and (B) classification of residential neighbourhoods. [145237]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the number of flights in percentage terms taken by adults in Great Britain during the last 12 months (2006). Data are not available by income quintile, but in five broad bands as shown as follows.

Data are not available by destination or broken down by classification of residential neighbourhoods.

Percentage

	Household income group					
Number of flights in last 12 months	*Under £10,000*	*£10,000 but under £20,000*	*£20,000 but under £29,000*	*£29,000 but under £44,000*	*£44,000 or more*	*All respondents*
None	75	56	44	35	19	45
One	12	20	25	23	17	19
Two	6	14	17	20	21	16
Three or four	4	6	11	13	19	11
Five or more	2	4	4	10	23	9
	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	583	662	462	512	546	[illegible]

Source:
"2006 British Social Attitudes Survey" conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen). The 2006 results are not yet published by NatCen.

Aviation: Accidents

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* large aircraft, *(b)* light aircraft, *(c)* ultralight aircraft and *(d)* helicopters occurred in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [145433]

Gillian Merron: The number of reportable accidents occurring within the London Flight Information Region of the UK, which equates approximately to England and Wales, for each of the last five years is set out as follows. The number of those accidents which involved fatalities is shown in brackets.

	Large aeroplanes (above 5,700 kg)	*Light aeroplanes (5,700 kg and below)*	*Microlights*	*Helicopters*
2002	15 (1)	145 (4)	13 (1)	23 (2)
2003	16 (0)	159 (6)	25 (2)	23 (3)
2004	12 (0)	117 (7)	22 (3)	16 (3)
2005	13 (0)	137 (11)	22 (2)	14 (1)
2006	11 (0)	142 (6)	30 (2)	22 (1)

Aviation: Baggage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to transfer responsibility for setting allowances for the number and weight of passenger hand baggage to airports and airlines; [145899]

(2) what discussions he has had with airlines on the current hand baggage restrictions in the last three months; and if he will publish the minutes of such meetings; [145900]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of the hand baggage regulations on the airline industry; [145901]

(4) what discussions he has had with airports and airlines on the (a) implementation of, (b) amendments to and (c) alleviation of the current restrictions on the number of pieces of hand baggage allowed per passenger in the last three months. [145902]

Gillian Merron: The one cabin bag per passenger is part of a package of measures to manage the current very real threat to aviation in the UK. The resulting reduction in the number of x-ray images per passenger ensures that the security checks are undertaken to the highest possible standard. The current security regulations are kept under constant review; and we have made clear throughout our readiness to remove the one bag limit once industry—collectively—is confident of its ability to deliver security effectively without it.

The Secretary of State and officials have discussed the current cabin baggage restrictions with industry representatives at formal meetings such as the National Aviation Security Committee, and also during informal discussions with airline and airport operators. Since security measures are discussed, minutes of meetings are classified Restricted, and it would not be appropriate to publish them.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the different hand baggage allowance for passengers leaving the UK and passengers arriving in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [143349]

Gillian Merron: The Department has currently placed a limit of one cabin bag per passenger in order to manage the current threat to aviation in the UK, which is higher than for most other countries. The resulting reduction in the number of x-ray images per passenger ensures that the security checks are undertaken to the highest possible standard. This measure has not been adopted by other states.

The Department has invited industry to put forward proposals to facilitate the screening of more than one bag per passenger, while still delivering effective security.

Aviation: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is the Government's policy to support the inclusion of EU aviation within the Emissions Trading Scheme. [145745]

Gillian Merron: The UK has taken the lead in securing aviation's inclusion into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. This is in line with the Government's plans to tackle aviation's climate change impacts as set out in "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of greenhouse gas emissions he expects air travel to represent in the next 20 years. [140188]

Gillian Merron: Estimates of aviation emissions in 2030 were provided in Aviation and Global Warming published by the Department for Transport in 2004 and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft-aviation/documents/page/dft-aviation-031850.pdf.

Aviation: Fuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the aviation industry's progress towards its aim of improving fuel efficiency by 50 per cent. from 2000 to 2020. [145743]

Gillian Merron: The aviation industry's sustainable aviation progress report 2006 available at www.sustainableaviation.co.uk includes information on progress towards this goal set by the Advisory Council on Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there was in the aviation industry's fuel efficiency per seat between 2000 and 2005; and what assessment he has made of the implications of this trend for the possibility of meeting future targets. [145744]

Gillian Merron: The Government do not collect this information. The aviation industry's "Sustainable Aviation Progress Report 2006" available at www.sustainableaviation.co.uk includes a graph setting out aggregated airline fuel efficiency in litres per revenue tonne kilometre between 2000 and 2005.

Bus Services: Concessions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with (a) the Scottish Executive, (b) the Welsh Assembly Government and (c) other interested and relevant parties to discuss the mutual cross-border recognition of concessionary bus passes. [144827]

Gillian Merron: The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, currently before Parliament, contains a power to allow, via future regulations, for mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. The Department had initial discussions with the Devolved Administrations about the proposal and all indicated support for including the power in the Bill. However, they also acknowledged that we would need to discuss it further and work together to resolve the various technical and resource issues before mutual recognition could be pursued in practice.

The issue of mutual recognition of passes within the UK has also been discussed at meetings of both the Department's Concessionary Fares Working Group and the Concessionary Fares Stakeholder Users' Group.

Local authorities in England already have the flexibility—which the Bill does not change—to offer more than the statutory concession to their residents, taking into account local circumstances, for example, free travel in the vicinity of the local authority, which could include, across borders.

Cycling: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many cycle routes or paths are available in *(a)* Portsmouth, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Hampshire; what their total length is; and what targets there are for future provision; [145837]

(2) how much was spent on the *(a)* provision and *(b)* maintenance of dedicated cycle routes or paths in (i) Hampshire, (ii) Southampton and (iii) Portsmouth in each of the last three years; and how much he expects will be spent in each of the next three years. [145838]

Mr. Tom Harris: Provision of cycling facilities is the responsibility of the Local Highway Authority and their strategy for cycling provision is set out in their Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Published figures for cycling facilities in the LTP and associated documents are not available in the form requested, but are expressed in the following table. Future spend on provision and maintenance is not sufficiently detailed to give a cycle only perspective.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Portsmouth			
Number of cycle tracks/lanes[1]	8	7	9
Length by km	3	4	5
Expenditure on cycle schemes (£000)	45	37	70
Southampton			
Number of cycle tracks/lanes[1]	6	33	11
Length by km	5	6	5
Expenditure on cycle schemes (£000)	305	244	250
Hampshire			
Number of cycle tracks/lanes[1]	12	4	6
Length by km	7	3	8
Expenditure on cycle schemes (Cycle tracks or lanes only) (£000)	452	548	380

[1] Includes new schemes and improvements or extensions to existing.

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of cycling fatalities which would have been avoided in each of the last five years if a helmet had been worn by the cyclist. [145444]

Dr. Ladyman: No such estimate has been made by the Department, however the evidence indicates that cycle helmets provide protective benefits in the event of a collision and therefore prevent and reduce injuries. Research suggests that between one third and one half of pedal cycle casualties attending hospital sustained an injury to the head or face (see DFT Road Safety Research Report No. 30, a copy of which is in the House Library).

Cycling: Safety Measures

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on dropped *(a)* kerbs and *(b)* central refuges to accommodate cyclists. [145010]

Gillian Merron: Policy on dropped kerbs and central refuges for cyclists is contained in the Department's publication "Cycle Friendly Infrastructure", copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Highways Agency on the provision of dropped *(a)* kerbs and *(b)* central refuges to accommodate cyclists; and if he will make a statement. [145011]

Dr. Ladyman: Although there have been no recent discussions with the HA, dropped kerbs and central refuges for cyclists are routinely delivered as part of the Highways Agency's programme of smaller scheme improvement works. Within the current spending review (CSR04 2005-06 to 2007-08) some £300 million has been allocated towards making better use of the network including measures to improve accessibility such as cycle provision.

Cycling: Standards

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cycling proficiency tests were *(a)* taken and *(b)* passed in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority. [145416]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold this information. Local authorities in England deliver a range of types of cycle training including Bikeability and other, less comprehensive, training such as the cycling proficiency test. Approximately a third of Year 6 pupils receive cycle training.

The Department has worked with over 20 organisations including local authorities, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the CTC to develop a new national cycle training Standard to update the old style cycling proficiency test to provide the on-road skills needed to handle modern traffic conditions. In March, we launched Bikeability—the award scheme for cyclists in England trained to the new standard. During the six month pilot phase, 5,000 children completed Bikeability training up to level 2: the level required to enable most children to cycle to school.

We are encouraging local authorities to deliver Bikeability training and have grants available to help both instructors with the cost of being trained to deliver Bikeability and local authorities to adopt national standards. Grants totalling £1.25 million have also been made available this year to local authorities in England to provide additional training places.

Dartford Tunnel

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which local authority areas the largest number of responses came to his Department's recent consultation on changes to charges at the Dartford crossing. [145025]

Dr. Ladyman: The largest number of consultation responses from which an address could be identified were from the Dartford and Thurrock areas.

Departments: British Airports Authority

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff his Department employs who previously worked for BAA; and if he will make a statement. [145381]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not keep this information in a form that can be accessed without disproportionate costs being incurred.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's employees left the Department to take up employment by BAA in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [145382]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not record this information in a form that can be accessed without disproportionate costs being incurred.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's staff are seconded to BAA; how many were seconded in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [145383]

Gillian Merron: The Department has no staff currently seconded to BAA. One member of staff was seconded to BAA in 2005.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145301]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the total spend by staff in the Department via credit, procurement and fuel cards during the last three complete financial years.

	Total spend		
Type of card	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Credit	0	0	0
Procurement—GPC and corporate card	5,508,294	7,241,140	12,334,227
Fuel card	856,468	1,935,628	3,853,181
Total	6,364,762	9,176,768	16,187,408

The procurement card figure includes spend using the Government procurement card (GPC) for purchasing low value goods and services and corporate cards for some official travel and related expenditure, issued under the umbrella of the OGC buying solutions pre-tendered national framework contract. The Department does not issue official credit cards.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144465]

Dr. Ladyman: Records of Memoranda of Understanding are not held centrally in the Department and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139300]

Gillian Merron: In each of the past five years the Department for Transport has spent the following on legal fees:

	£
2002-03	451,466
2003-04	2,718,545
2004-05	3,793,752
2005-06	3,030,728
2006-07	3,143,937

Notes

1. In the year 2002, Legal Services Directorate was part of both DfT and ODPM (now DCLG).
2. The Driving Standards Agency can only provide answers from 2003.
3. The Vehicle Certification Agency has a nil return within UK. In respect of its overseas offices it is less than £2,000 per annum over the last five years.
4. The Government Car and Despatch Agency accounting practices do not record legal costs arising from work carried out by Treasury Solicitors and private practice separately.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145908]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not currently have a Concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive but will work with colleagues in the Devolved Administration in Northern Ireland to develop one. A copy will be laid in the House when this has been done.

The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145689]

Gillian Merron: The figures requested are as follows:

	Percentage
2005	5.1
2006	5.0
2007	5.4

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145698]

Gillian Merron: The following table provides details of responses from DfT and its agencies to the request for information.

	Number over 55	Percentage new recruits	Number over 60	Percentage new recruits	Total new recruits
2004-05	155	8.5	68	3.75	1,818
2005-06	227	8.9	82	3.2	2,565
2006-07	109	6.3	35	2.0	1,729

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value. [145871]

Gillian Merron: HM Treasury website provides updated details (on a six-monthly basis) of unitary payments on PFI projects overseen by the Department for Transport. This information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The unitary payments are based on outturn prices. On average, the appropriate real discount rate for deriving the present value would be 3.5 per cent., as set out in the Treasury Green Book.

The forecasts of future payments are subject to the performance of the private sector contractors.

The unitary payments represent repayments for the capital value (sum of the capital spend) of the project and will also frequently include inflation, service provision, capital repayments and major refurbishments.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145283]

Gillian Merron: Department and its Agencies published 71 consultations in the 12 month period to the end of May 2007.

They are available on our website http://www.dft.gov.uk.

The Department regularly consults key stakeholders on a less formal basis through meetings or seminars to help inform policy development.

Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145266]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport including its Executive Agencies conducted eight staff surveys in the last 12 months at a total cost of £275,922.26.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage young drivers who are driving without insurance to take out an insurance policy; [145393]

(2) what plans he has to raise awareness of the requirement for third party insurance and the consequences of not obtaining insurance. [145409]

Dr. Ladyman: The requirements for motor insurance are given in the Highway Code and all new and young drivers should be aware of this. Separately the Department has a section on the Direct.Gov website detailing among other things the motor insurance requirements and the consequences of uninsured driving.

At the end of 2005 the police were given new powers to seize vehicles being driven uninsured. Additionally the Road Safety Act 2006 provides for the introduction of a new scheme of continuous insurance enforcement which is planned for 2008.

The Department is planning a publicity and awareness campaign to ensure that all drivers, including young drivers, are fully aware of the requirements, the risks and the consequences of driving uninsured, and are encouraged to take out a policy of motor insurance. It is intended that this campaign will commence shortly before the proposed scheme of continuous insurance enforcement is commenced so that programme can include details of this scheme.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review the penalties available to magistrates in dealing with uninsured drivers. [145405]

Dr. Ladyman: The range of penalties open to magistrates when dealing with uninsured driving offences are already extensive, ranging from a fine at up to £5,000 and an obligatory requirement for 6 to 8 points on an offenders driving licence. In addition the police now have powers to seize and dispose of any vehicles being found driven uninsured. Separately the Road Safety Act 2006 provided for a scheme of continuous insurance enforcement with significant penalties, including seizure of vehicles being

used uninsured. The Department is currently preparing detailed implementation plans for this scheme. Once this scheme is operational we will be reviewing the full range of penalties and sanctions available to tackle uninsured driving, and to see what further actions might be needed.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to address the issue of uninsured driving by eliminating abuse of the current practice of allowing a 14 day grace period for renewal of car insurance policy after the policy lapses. [145406]

Dr. Ladyman: All motorists have at all times had to have a current policy of motor insurance covering their use of a motor vehicle. The practice of allowing a 14 day grace period to renew a lapsed motor insurance policy was an insurance industry practice. The Department has been assured that industry has taken steps to ensure that this practice is discontinued.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to introduce school-based programmes highlighting the risk of uninsured driving. [145788]

Dr. Ladyman: A publicity and awareness campaign is being planned to ensure that all drivers, including young drivers, are fully aware of the requirements, the risks and the consequences of driving uninsured, and are encouraged to take out a policy of motor insurance. It is our intention that this campaign will commence shortly before the scheme of continuous insurance enforcement, powers for which were granted in the Road Safety Act 2006, is commenced so that the campaign can include details of this scheme. We will be considering all opportunities and channels, including school based programmes, to ensure a fully effective campaign.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the number of drivers per year convicted for drink-driving of the introduction of a statutory blood alcohol limit of 50 milligrammes per 100 millilitres of blood; [144912]

(2) what estimate he has made of the timetable for implementation of a statutory blood alcohol level for drivers reduced from the current maximum to 50 milligrammes; [145022]

(3) what estimate he has made of the annual cost of implementing a statutory blood alcohol level for drivers of 50 milligrammes; [145023]

(4) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of reducing the permitted blood alcohol level from the current statutory level to 50 milligrammes. [145109]

Dr. Ladyman: Any limit is aimed primarily at persuading people not to drink and drive in the first place, rather than at a target for convictions, and so no specific assessment has been made of the effect of a 50mg legal limit on drink driving convictions. A change in the legal limit would require public consultation and the making of a statutory instrument subject to negative resolution procedure.

Such a statutory instrument would require an impact assessment, which would include an assessment of the likely cost impact of a lower limit. An assessment of the estimated effect on road traffic casualties of lowering the legal alcohol limit was made in the Department's consultation paper "Combating Drink Driving: Next Steps" (February 1998), a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Government Car and Dispatch Agency: Motor Vehicles

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many vehicles are owned by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency, broken down by vehicle excise duty band; [144802]

(2) what percentage of vehicles in use by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency fall into each vehicle excise duty band. [144803]

Dr. Ladyman: The vehicles in use by the Government Car and Despatch Agency and their vehicle excise duty bands are as follows:

Vehicle excise duty band	*Number in GCDA fleet*	*Percentage of GCDA fleet*
Band B	98	40
Band C	5	2
Band F	86	35
Band G	3	1
Light Goods Vehicles	45	19
Registered before 1 March 2001	6	2

Lorries

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the increase in expected wear rate of an *(a)* A class road and *(b)* motorway is for an additional traffic volume per day of (i) 400, (ii) 500, (iii) 800, and (iv) 1,000 heavy goods vehicle movements. [145735]

Dr. Ladyman: The increases in heavy vehicle flow referred to are unlikely to have significant effects on structural or surface wear rates for A class roads and motorways designed in accordance with the Highways Agency's standards.

Lorries: Noise

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the change in noise level adjacent to an *(a)* A class road and *(b)* motorway arising from an additional traffic volume per day of (i) 400, (ii) 600, (iii) 800 and (iv) 1,000 heavy goods vehicle movements. [145734]

Dr. Ladyman: The method used in the UK for calculating road traffic noise requires a baseline volume of traffic. The change in road traffic noise, including from heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), is calculated from the change in the baseline traffic level. A change in traffic noise level cannot be calculated with only absolute increases in traffic volumes.

If all the other factors that influence road traffic noise remained unchanged, a 10 per cent. change in HGVs is approximately equivalent to a one decibel noise change.

Lorries: Tolls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent developing the lorry road user charge before it was integrated into the National Road Pricing scheme. [141857]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Total expenditure on the lorry road user charge from May 2002 until its integration into the National Road Pricing scheme was £65.4 million.

Merchant Shipping: Oil

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government have the power under merchant shipping legislation to block ship-to-ship oil transfers; and what the Government's response is to the environmental and public concern raised on the proposal for ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth. [145656]

Dr. Ladyman: Currently, it is not for the Secretary of State to decide whether ship-to-ship transfers in a harbour authority area may or may not take place.

However, Forth Ports, as the statutory harbour authority for the Firth of Forth has public duties to which it must have regard when exercising its functions. These include Forth Ports' role as a competent authority under the European Community's Habitats Directive in relation to decisions on whether or not to authorise the proposed ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Nevertheless, it is understood that the Scottish Executive is intending to introduce a new control on harbour authorities in Scotland and that this control would be achieved through a Scotland-only amendment to Part IV of the Habitats Regulations. The introduction of this control is intended to address local concerns about the situation in the Firth of Forth.

The UK Government are considering making regulations under section 130 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 to regulate ship-to-ship transfer of oil carried as cargo in those areas within the 12 nautical mile limit of the UK's territorial sea where there is a higher risk because there is not an appropriate oil spill contingency plan prepared under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998.

Nonetheless, the Department is closely monitoring the views expressed concerning the proposal for ship-to-ship transfers of oil in the Firth of Forth.

Ministers: Official Cars

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 727W, on Ministers: official cars, how many cars are allocated to Ministers in each Government Department, broken down by *(a)* Minister and *(b)* car model given in the answer. [145453]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested in respect of the number of cars allocated to Departments is currently being collated and will be published in the coming weeks.

Motor Vehicles: Cherished Number Plates

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why a vehicle inspection is required for a vehicle over 15 years old before a cherished number plate transfer can take place. [145588]

Dr. Ladyman: The instruction to inspect all vehicles over 15 years old from date of manufacture/first registration whichever is earlier, was issued by the DVLA after a review of cherished transfer and retention applications. Vehicles over 15 years old were identified as being in a 'higher risk' category for fraudulent applications. A subsequent review of this instruction reveals it's introduction as effective, as applicants are now aware that vehicles will be called for inspection to ensure that the vehicle exists.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the full emissions profile per mile is, both laden and unladen, for *(a)* 38 tonne heavy goods vehicle (HGV), *(b)* 44 tonne HGVs, *(c)* transit type vans and *(d)* family saloons. [145736]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicle emissions vary significantly depending on the exact operating conditions. In the case of local pollutants, emissions depend greatly on the age of the vehicle and hence the emissions standards it was designed to meet. The following data are based on the vehicle emissions factors used in the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory which are derived from Department for Transport (and other) vehicle emissions test data. The figures quoted relate to average emissions over all UK roads for the year 2005 fleet. Emissions may be significantly different for specific sections of road and will decrease for subsequent years as vehicles meeting the latest emissions standards enter the fleet.

	g/km				
Vehicle type	*NOx*	PM_{10}	*CO*	*HC*	CO_2
Petrol Passenger Car	0.31	0.0029	1.1	0.08	186
Diesel Passenger Car	0.57	0.049	0.11	0.04	178
Diesel Light Goods Vehicle	0.87	0.14	0.46	0.10	291
Articulated HGV	10.6	0.26	2.1	0.92	1677

The emissions factors underlying the aforementioned data are based on testing up to the year 2001. The Department is in the process of updating these factors based on new test data accumulated over the last five years.

The aforementioned data represent vehicles at typical load conditions. The Department does not hold data on the unladen and fully laden emissions of

vehicles or the relative emissions of articulated HGVs of different gross vehicle weights. However, we are conducting research on the impacts of payload on fuel consumption and hence CO_2 emissions. Preliminary results from this work suggest a reduction of 0.112 miles per gallon per tonne of payload. This equates to in the region of a 1.1 per cent. increase in fuel consumption and CO_2 emissions per tonne.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to set a target of having real time data entry in the Motor Insurance Database of insurance polices by the end of 2008. [145392]

Dr. Ladyman: There are continuing discussions with the Insurance industry on the targets for updating the Motor Insurance Database (MID), but there is no current plan to set a target of the end of 2008 for real time data entry to the MID.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has met the recommended target date set by the Greenaway report for reducing the permitted interval between an insurance policy being issued and details uploaded in the Motor Insurance Database from 14 days to seven days by the end of 2006. [145407]

Dr. Ladyman: The Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) (owned by the insurance industry) own and operate the Motor Insurance Database (MID). The latest figures for mid June indicate that 94.4 per cent. of all appropriate records are provided by the insurance industry to the MID within seven days which is in line with expectations to meet the new target date of January 2008 agreed with the Department.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of motor insurance providers' capacity to comply with the requirements of rapid data entry to the Motor Insurance Database. [145408]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department receives regular reports from the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) on the update status of the Motor Insurance Database (MID) and these show that insurers are achieving good results.

The Department has made no recent assessment of insurers capacity to move to rapid or real time data entry for the MID. However the Department will continue to discuss improvements to the MID update targets with the Industry.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to improve the recording of information by insurance providers on claims settled directly in connection with incidents involving uninsured drivers, as recommended by the Greenaway report. [145410]

Dr. Ladyman: The insurance industry has had extensive consultations on this recommendation. These have not yet resulted in a final solution and officials from the Department will be having further discussions with the industry with the intention of implementing this recommendation.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for more severe penalties for insurance providers who do not comply with permitted interval period between an insurance policy being issued and details uploaded to the motor insurance database. [145789]

Dr. Ladyman: The Motor Insurer's Bureau (MIB) (owned by the insurance industry) own and operate the Motor Insurance Database (MID). There is a statutory requirement for all motor insurers to be members of the MIB and, as part of the requirements of membership, all motor insurers are required to meet the agreed targets for updating the MID. The MIB have the power to impose a penalty of up to £250,000 for non compliance. The insurance industry is currently achieving the standards agreed with this Department and consequently more severe penalties are not required.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to require motor insurance providers to notify the motor insurance database and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency immediately of any insurance policy cancellation. [145790]

Dr. Ladyman: Motor insurers are required to notify the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), who maintain and operate the Motor Insurance Database (MID) of all changes (including cancellations) to motor insurance policies. I have no intention to require insurers to also notify the DVLA as dual notification would not deliver any additional benefits but would introduce additional costs.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will require every motor insurance policy issued to contain information on both the insured driver and the vehicle they are insured to drive. [145791]

Dr. Ladyman: Motor insurers are required to keep information about all vehicles insured under all motor insurance policies, and to supply such information to the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB). Motor insurers are also required to keep information about the persons, or classes of person, entitled to drive a vehicle under any particular policy. For most private policies the drivers are specified on the policy. However fleet policies often cover the use of many hundreds or thousands of vehicles and drivers and in these cases the policy merely specifies a class of driver, for example, any authorised employee. Any requirement for insurers and others to record by individual name all drivers covered by a large fleet policy, and to process all changes to the lists of authorised drivers, would potentially be a large and onerous administrative burden which would have limited value to the enforcement authorities. It is not proposed to change the current arrangements, at the present time.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations he has received asking for the MOT testing regime to be extended to every other year; and if he will place in the Library copies of such representations. [145117]

Dr. Ladyman: Nine letters have been received by the Department in support of the proposals in advance of the formal consultation on the subject.

A copy of each of these letters has been placed in the Library. These have been anonymised because there was no indication from the authors whether or not they objected to their full details being made public.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much income was derived by local authorities from parking *(a)* charges and *(b)* penalties in the most recent financial year available, broken down by region. [145358]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1425W.

Railways: Kent

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has estimated the cost of subsidy by South East Trains of free rail transport for Kentish passengers seeking to join Eurostar at Ebbsfleet. [145647]

Mr. Tom Harris: The arrangement between Southeastern and Eurostar, announced on 8 June, whereby passengers can use services from any Southeastern station to connect with Eurostar trains at Ashford or Ebbsfleet is a commercial agreement between the two companies. There is no additional call on subsidy as a result of this arrangement.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the expected change in the *(a)* passenger miles and *(b)* carbon footprint which will result from passengers having to join Eurostar for Brussels at Ebbsfleet rather than at Ashford. [145648]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate has been made to date, but this information has been requested from Eurostar following a meeting I had with MPs local to Ashford on 11 June 2007. I will write to the hon. Gentleman to confirm the response from Eurostar in due course.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reduction in journey time from London to Ramsgate via Ashford that he expects to follow the introduction of fast link trains on domestic routes. [145649]

Mr. Tom Harris: The journey time from St. Pancras to Ramsgate via Ashford using the new high-speed service is expected to be one hour 25 minutes, compared with one hour 45 minutes currently from London Bridge.

Railways: Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains were cancelled in each of the last 12 months, broken down by region. [145215]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train cancellation data for the rail network as a whole are collected and processed by Network Rail. For a response, the hon. Member may wish to contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40, Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Railways: Theft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many thefts of *(a)* luggage and *(b)* other items were reported on (i) the East Coast and (ii) West Coast main lines in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [145742]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN
e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Tickets

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the availability of ticket machines at unstaffed stations; [144282]

(2) what performance targets train operating companies are set on ticket sales at stations; [144283]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the rail industry on the sale of tickets at stations. [144284]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has made no assessment of ticket machines at unstaffed stations, as ticket selling is the responsibility of the relevant train operator.

At staffed stations, operators are obliged through their passenger licence and franchise agreement to use reasonable endeavours to limit ticket office queuing times to three minutes at off-peak times and five minutes at peak times.

The Secretary of State has had no discussions about changing this obligation, but has discussed how new technology such as smartcards, print-at-home tickets or tickets sent directly to mobile phones might be used to avoid the need to queue at ticket offices at all. Several operators are already trialling such tickets.

Roads: Devon

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an urgent assessment of the safety of the Devon Expressway between Marsh Mills and Ivybridge. [145194]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency monitors the safety of each section of road and junctions with a view to implementing improvements as priority allows. Accident statistics for this length of road are approximately 10 per cent. lower than national average for trunk road dual carriageways. The Agency is aware of the potential increase in future demand from major developments in and around Plymouth and work is under way to provide improved signing and CCTV monitoring of this corridor as well as to identify local improvement measures as traffic volumes increase.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the tunnelling machine used in the A3 Hindhead improvement can be used in future road improvement schemes. [145693]

Dr. Ladyman: The A3 Hindhead improvement scheme will not be using a tunnel boring machine for tunnel construction. The excavators and associated support equipment that will be used would be suitable for use in future road improvement schemes.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether a regulatory impact assessment was produced on the provisions of the Road Safety Act 2006 which repealed Section 75 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; [145501]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* community and voluntary sector groups and *(b)* county councils of the repeal of Section 75 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. [145651]

Gillian Merron: A copy of the Regulatory Impact Assessment for Section 53 of Road Safety Act 2006, which provides for repeal of section 75 (1) (b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1975, has been placed in the Library of the House.

This gives our estimate of the overall costs across all sectors. We however made no specific estimate of the costs for the community and voluntary transport sectors or for county councils.

It should be borne in mind that many private hire vehicle contracts will already be carried out by drivers, vehicles and operators that are already licensed or to whom the contract exemption did not apply. Furthermore, the proportion of licensing cost which will be passed on to those awarding contracts will depend on contracts terms in each case.

ScotRail: Franchises

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the financial details of the procurement process for the Scotrail franchise were made available by the Scottish Rail Authority to the *(a)* Scottish Executive and *(b)* Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority, during the refranchising process. [145567]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Strategic Rail Authority undertook the replacement of the ScotRail franchise on behalf of the Scottish Executive. The SRA's processes incorporated the provision of information to and consultation with both the Scottish Executive and Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority during the franchising process.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the final costs were of the tendering process for the current Scotrail franchise; and on which date the figure was reached for the final cost of the tendering process for the current franchise. [145568]

Mr. Tom Harris: The ScotRail franchise was re-let by the Strategic Rail Authority on behalf of the Scottish Executive, at a cost to the Authority of £3.753 million. The process was completed on 18 October 2004.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the relative effectiveness of conspicuous and inconspicuous speed cameras in reducing numbers of speeding motorists. [144104]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The Department's guidance DfT Circular 01/2007 Use of Speed and Red-Light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement: Guidance on Deployment, Visibility and Signing, which is available in the House Library, recommends cameras are positioned conspicuously and at locations where excessive speed represents a road safety problem. The annual independent evaluations of the national safety camera programme show that conspicuous enforcement is proven to reduce speeding and accidents. The Department has not commissioned or reviewed research on the relative effectiveness of conspicuous and covert cameras at reducing the number of speeding motorists, but has always made clear that it remains open to the police to conduct covert enforcement of speed limits. The Department introduced high visibility speed enforcement in 2001 as part of the Government's decision to make the camera netting-off scheme available nationally.

Train Operating Companies: Subsidies

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Government subsidy was provided to each train operating company in each year since 1997. [144285]

Mr. Tom Harris: Historic subsidies paid and premiums received to and from franchised train operators were published in the annual report and accounts of the Strategic Rail Authority up to 2004-05.

Beyond that the information is contained in National Rail Trends. Copies of these documents are in the Library of the House.

Transport: Baggage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on *(a)* air, *(b)* bus and *(c)* rail passenger hand baggage policy. [145898]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has received written representations from industry and business representatives, and correspondence from members of the public, drawing his attention to the impact the restriction on the number of items of cabin baggage is having on UK air travellers.

Following the London attacks in July 2005 the Department received a limited amount of correspondence from members of the public about restricting the carriage of luggage on the London Underground and rail networks.

Transport: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding for which his Department is responsible was allocated to each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [145214]

(2) how much central government funding was allocated to each London borough for road improvements in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [145216]

Gillian Merron: Capital funding to London boroughs for improvements to transport, including highways, is a matter for the Mayor. The Department gives a block grant to Transport for London, from which borough transport improvements can be funded.

Additionally, under the Mixed Priority Route Road Safety Demonstration Project, £1 million in grant was allocated to the London borough of Southwark and the London borough of Lambeth for highway works between 2002-03 and 2006-07. Over three years from 2001 to 2003 funding was also provided for the Kerbcraft scheme to equip local volunteers to work with small groups of 5-7 year olds on improving basic roadside skills. The funding was allocated to the London boroughs as shown in the chart as follows.

Payments to London boroughs running 'Kerbcraft' schemes[1]

£000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Camden	9	28	27	23	—
Croydon	9	24	25	27	—
Enfield	28	27	24	—	—
Greenwich	26	29	48	22	27
Haringey	—	5	28	29	28
Islington	—	2	26	22	26
Lambeth	32	37	25	21	—
Lewisham	34	55	39	31	—
Southwark	2	11	—	22	—
Tower Hamlets	10	38	59	46	26
Waltham Forest	4	22	22	19	—
Westminster	—	9	29	31	21

[1] Payment was made after the end of the financial year in which the training was carried out.

The Department has also awarded PFI credits to London boroughs in order to support them to enter into a PFI contract to improve their street lighting. The PFI credits awarded to London boroughs for street lighting schemes in the last five years are:

London borough	Month of award	PFI credits awarded (£ million)
London borough of Islington	May 2003	12.2
London borough of Ealing	July 2005	25.3
London borough of Lambeth	November 2005	17.2
London borough of Barnet	March 2006	27.8
London borough of Enfield	March 2006	23.7

Transport: Noise

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to address noise generated by *(a)* road traffic, *(b)* trains and *(c)* aviation. [145597]

Gillian Merron: On aircraft noise, the Government's objective is to strike a fair balance between the local and national benefits that can be gained from airport expansion and the local environmental costs that might be imposed on people who live nearest to airports.

One of the aims of the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper was that the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise should be limited and, where possible, reduced. In helping airports deliver this aim, the Civil Aviation Act 2006 strengthened airport operators' powers to control noise at airports.

The Environmental Noise Directive requires the production of strategic noise maps for large urban areas, major roads, major railways and major airports. The maps will be used to prepare noise action plans during 2008 setting out how environmental noise, including that from transport sources, will be managed. To inform the development of these plans, the Department for Transport will work closely with DEFRA and transport stakeholders in reviewing how transport noise is currently managed and what additional mitigation measures might be needed.

In assessing the impact of new road proposals on the environment, noise annoyance is taken into account in scheme appraisal. Road construction projects will include high standards of environmental mitigation to ensure that, so far as reasonably possible, the impact of noise is minimised in accordance with this policy.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on noise nuisance generated by *(a)* aviation and *(b)* road traffic. [145598]

Gillian Merron: The Department regularly receives representations regarding noise generated by aviation

and road traffic. The views are used in developing measures to address noise nuisance from transport.

Transport: Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the project on the sustainability of land use and transport in outer neighbourhoods has been completed. [145596]

Gillian Merron: This project is due to be completed later this year. A copy of the report from the first phase can be found in the Library of the House.

Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change is in the number of vehicles on roads in England up to 2,025, broken down by category of vehicle. [139550]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department's TEMPRO (Version 5) System forecasts car ownership, alongside other data on trips. However, it does not forecast other vehicle categories. Current projections are that the change in the number of cars between 2003 and 2025 could be 7.9 million or 34 per cent.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average time a child waited in local authority care to be placed *(a)* with foster parent(s) and *(b)* with a parent(s) for adoption in each of the last five years. [144432]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested on the average time a child waited in local authority care to be placed with foster parents is not collected centrally.

Information on the average time between the date it was decided that a looked after child should be placed for adoption and the date this child was actually placed for adoption is shown in the following table.

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2006 by average time between the date it was decided that a child should be placed for adoption and the actual date when a child was placed for adoption[1,2,3], England

Year ending 31 March	Average time between the date it was decided a looked after child should be placed for adoption and the actual date when this child was placed for adoption (year:month)
2002	0:08
2003	0:07
2004	0:08
2005	0:08
2006	0:08

[1] SSDA903 return (Source).

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] Figures were rounded to the nearest year and to the nearest month.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are in local authority care facilities waiting for placement *(a)* with a foster parent(s) and *(b)* for adoption. [144433]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* couples and *(b)* individuals made enquiries to local authorities to (i) foster and (ii) adopt a child or children in each of the last five years. [144434]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of administration by local authorities of the support activity required by adoption legislation to parents in fostering and adoption. [144535]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has made no assessment of the support services provided by local authorities. This is the responsibility of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted).

In November 2006, the then inspectorate of children's services, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, published "Adoption: messages from inspections of adoption agencies", which includes a chapter on supporting children in their new families. This report can be downloaded from the publications page on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

In addition, as a part of its Adoption Research Initiative, the Department for Education and Skills has commissioned a study into the specialist support services available for birth parents in adoption cases and the services for supporting contact between birth parents and their children. The study is due to complete in June 2008.

In relation to fostering, the National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services require fostering service providers to have in place a clear strategy for working with and supporting their carers, including training and development, out of hours support and arrangements for reviews. The Fostering Services Regulations 2002 place an explicit duty on providers to provide carers with such training, support and information as appears necessary in the interests of the children placed with them. Fostering service providers' compliance with these Regulations and the National Minimum Standards is assessed by Ofsted as part of its inspections of fostering services.

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average time local authorities took to interview and process an application form from *(a)* a couple and *(b)* an individual wishing to (i) foster and (ii) adopt in each of the last five years. [144431]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally.

The Fostering Services Regulations 2002 set out in detail the requirements of the approval process for foster carers including the information that must be collected in the assessment and who must sit on the

fostering panel. There are no prescribed time scales for the approval process; however, it is in the interests of the provider to conduct approvals efficiently, in order to place children into suitable homes.

The local authority adoption panel's recommendation about the suitability of a prospective adopter(s) to adopt a child should be made within eight months of the receipt of their formal application. The local authority's decision on whether the prospective adopter should be approved as suitable to adopt should be taken within seven working days of the adoption panel's recommendation. The prospective adopter should be informed orally of the local authority's decision within two working days and written confirmation should be sent to them within five working days.

The local authority should monitor its performance against these time scales and make this information available in its annual report.

Adoption: Foster Care

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to minimise the disruption to the care provided to fostered children going through the court process for adoption. [145731]

Mr. Dhanda: The Ministry of Justice, through Her Majesty's Court Service, has lead responsibility for supporting the work of the judiciary in the family courts. These courts consider the cases of those children who become the subject of care proceedings brought under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, some of whom will be placed with foster parents while their cases are before the courts.

The Department works closely and collaboratively with the Ministry of Justice, in particular, through the Ministerial Steering Group on Care Proceedings, of which I am a member. Together, we are working to implement the recommendations of the 'Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales', which are intended to reduce delay in the family courts and thus reduce the risk of disruption to the lives of children who are the subjects of such proceedings.

On 21 June, a revised 'Public Law Outline' was published for consultation by the President of the Family Division, Sir Mark Potter, who is also a member of the Ministerial Steering Group. This document, when implemented in April 2008, is intended to improve the case management of care proceedings cases brought by local authorities.

The White Paper 'Care Matters: Time for Change', also published on 21 June, sets out a range of measures aimed at increasing placement stability for children in foster care. As well as measures to improve the training of foster carers, the White Paper introduced a series of regional commissioning pilots in order to enable local authorities to recruit and retain sufficient foster carers in their local areas.

Apprentices: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 16 to 18-year-olds in West Lancashire *(a)* started an apprenticeship, *(b)* completed an apprenticeship and *(c)* found employment in the field of their apprenticeship in each of the last three years. [144821]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds in West Lancashire.

	West Lancashire		*England*	
	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*
2003/04	50	220	27,520	85,510
2004/05	60	190	26,990	87,900
2005/06	60	160	23,610	77,400

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Success rates (the number of leavers who meet all of the requirements of their apprenticeship framework divided by the number of leavers who have either left training or successfully completed their programme) by age group and programme type are published in the Statistical First Release: "Further Education and work-based learning for young people—learner outcomes in England." Success rates for 16 to 18-year-olds are shown in the following table. These figures are not currently available at parliamentary constituency level.

		Percentage
	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*
2003/04	36	31
2004/05	41	41
2005/06	56	54

Source:
WBL ILR

The ILR does not collect information about the field of employment learners go into on completion of their apprenticeships although because the vast majority of apprentices are employed during their training it is probable that most will stay in the same field of employment on completion of their training.

Apprentices: Yorkshire and Humberside

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 16 to 18-year-olds in

(a) Yorkshire and Humberside and *(b)* East Riding of Yorkshire (i) started an apprenticeship, (ii) completed an apprenticeship and (iii) found employment in the field of their apprenticeship in each of the last three years. [140382]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18-year-olds in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(b)* East Riding of Yorkshire.

	Yorkshire and Humberside		*East Riding of Yorkshire*		*England*	
	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*
2003/04	3,310	11,870	360	1,150	27,520	85,510
2004/05	3,440	12,710	300	1,220	26,990	87,900
2005/06	3,070	10,640	270	1,260	23,610	77,400

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Completion is not a measure used by the LSC. The following table shows success rates (the number of leavers who meet all of the requirements of their apprenticeship framework divided by the number of leavers who have either left training or successfully completed their programme) for 16 to 18-year-olds in Yorkshire and Humberside. These figures are not currently available at local authority level.

	Percentage	
	Advanced apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*
2003/04	40	33
2004/05	39	37
2005/06	55	51

Source:
WBL ILR

The ILR does not collect information about the field of employment learners go into on completion of their apprenticeships although because the vast majority of apprentices are employed during their training it is probable that most will stay in the same field of employment on completion of their training.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many learners *(a)* participated in programme-led pathways and *(b)* participated in programme-led pathways and progressed to (i) a work-based learning programme and (ii) a further education programme in each year since the inception of the scheme. [131393]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Programme Led Pathways (PLPs) were introduced in 2004/05 for young people on courses of further education in colleges including study towards qualifications that form a mandatory part of an approved apprenticeship framework.

In 2004/05 the number of programme led pathways recorded was 40,510 (rounded to the nearest 10) or 18.7 per cent. of total starts.

PLPs were replaced by programme led apprenticeships (PLAs) in 2005/06. PLAs include those which would previously have been known as PLPs as well as apprenticeships, funded through the work based learning funding route, where the learners concerned are not yet employed. This change was made to provide a clear means to determine eligibility for education maintenance allowance (EMA). PLAs are not a substitute for employer led apprenticeships, which remain the preferred route for apprentices. They exist to enable young people who are not yet able to start an apprenticeship to study those elements of an apprenticeship that are able to be achieved outside an employed situation.

In 2005/06, using the criteria for PLAs under EMA, data from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) show 24,580 (rounded to the nearest 10) learners starting a programme led apprenticeship—12.3 per cent. of total starts on apprenticeships.

Information on learners who participated in programme-led pathways and progressed to (i) a work-based learning programme and (ii) a further education programme is not readily available. To calculate the volumes progressing to mainstream provision would require a significant resource in terms of analyst time and that information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Assessments: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students took A2 level examinations in Romford in each year since 1997; and how many passed with grades A to C. [134545]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bookstart Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when the extension of the Bookstart scheme announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report to deliver books to five and 11-year-olds is planned to come into effect; [145446]

(2) how much more his Department expects to contribute to the Bookstart scheme via the Booktrust charity to fund the extension of the scheme to deliver books to five and 11-year-olds. [145447]

Beverley Hughes: Bookstart, which delivers free packs to babies and children aged between 6-9 months, 18 months and 3 years, is not being extended. However, the Department is funding two new free book

offers—Booktime and Booked Up. Booktime, the free book scheme for every 5-year-old, will be delivered in the autumn term 2007. Booktime aims to involve parents and carers in their child's reading and promote reading for pleasure. The free book, carefully selected by a panel of experts will be 'FunnyBones' by Allan and Janet Ahlberg.

Booked Up is the free book scheme for every 11-year-old and this will also be delivered in the autumn term 2007. Every child will be able to choose a free book from a choice of 12 titles, selected to encompass a wide range of reading abilities and interests. Booked Up aims to encourage independent reading and personal choice of material as well as reading for pleasure.

Booktrust is administering both Booktime and Booked Up and the Department is funding the organisation £4 million to deliver both offers.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the total contract value PFI credits are normally expected to cover in cases where local authorities are allocated Private Finance Initiative credits for Building Schools for the Future contracts. [144532]

Jim Knight: PFI is the preferred route for funding new build projects within the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Through work with Pathfinder and Wave 1 local authorities the level of PFI credits has been set at a rate whereby authorities may be expected to provide an additional contribution to their PFI projects, which DFES expects to be affordable. Each BSF project is unique and some local authorities seek to include elements/services outside of the scope of what DFES will fund for BSF. As a result, the contribution made by individual local authorities varies by project and the proportion of the total contract value which is expected to be funded through PFI credits will vary.

Children: Protection

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* children's trusts ensure that calls to report child protection concerns are referred on to the appropriate agency with the appropriate level of urgency; [144384]

(2) what statutory time limits are in place within which a *(a)* local authority and *(b)* children's trust must respond to a call reporting child protection concerns from (i) a member of the public, (ii) schools, (iii) the police and (iv) other local authority child protection agencies; [144385]

(3) what measures are in place to ensure that local authorities record the number of calls to children's services to report child protection concerns. [144387]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answers 21 June 2007]:* All organisations that work with children share a commitment to safeguard and promote their welfare, and for many organisations that is underpinned by a statutory duty or duties. Local authorities that are children's services authorities have a number of specific duties to organise and plan services and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Children's trusts are local area partnership arrangements, underpinned by the Children Act 2004 duty to cooperate, for bringing together key agencies which deliver services for children, young people and their families.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The application of this duty will vary according to the nature of each agency and its functions.

Councils with local authority children's social services functions have particular responsibilities towards all children whose health or development may be impaired without the provision of services, or who are disabled (defined in the Children Act 1989 as children 'in need'). They should agree, with LSCB partners, criteria with local services and professionals as to when it is appropriate to make a referral to local authority children's social care in respect of a child in need. They should also agree the format for making a referral and sharing the information recorded.

Professionals who phone local authority children's social care should confirm referrals in writing within 48 hours. The Common Assessment Framework provides a structure for the written referral. At the end of any discussion or dialogue about a child, the referrer (whether a professional or a member of the public or family) and local authority children's social care should be clear about proposed action, timescales and who will be taking it, or that no further action will be taken. The decision should be recorded by local authority children's social care and by the referrer (if a professional in another service). Local authority children's social care should acknowledge a written referral within one working day of receiving it. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within three working days, they should contact the local authority children's social care again.

Local authority children's social care should decide and record next steps of action within one working day. This information should be consistent with the information set out in the Referral and Information Record (Department of Health, 2002). This decision should normally follow discussion with any referring professional/service and consideration of information held in any existing records, and involve discussion with other professionals and services as necessary (including the police, where a criminal offence may have been committed against a child). This initial consideration of the case should address—on the basis of the available evidence—whether there are concerns about the child's health and development or actual and/or potential harm that justifies and initial assessment to establish whether this child is possibly a child in need. Further action may also include referral to other agencies, the provision of advice or information, or no further action.

All child protection conferences, both initial and review, should have a dedicated person to take notes and produce a record of the meeting. The record of the conference is a crucial working document for all

relevant professionals and the family. Cases where s47 inquiries do not result in the substantiation of referral concerns should be retained in accordance with agency retention policies. These policies should ensure that records are stored safely and can be retrieved promptly and efficiently.

Children: Work Permits

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1701W, on children: work permits, when he proposes to issue guidance on child employment; and what steps he is taking to consult key stakeholders. [145350]

Mr. Dhanda: Government guidance on child employment will be issued within the next year. All key stakeholders will be invited to comment on the scope and content of the guidance, and to play an active part in its preparation.

City Academies: Private Sector

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what rights private sector sponsoring companies have to hire and fire staff in state city academies. [141026]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 June 2007]*: Staff in Academies are not employed by private sector sponsoring companies but by the Academy governing body. The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) apply when a school closes and becomes an Academy, and general employment law applies to all open Academies.

Class Sizes

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average teacher-pupil ratio was in *(a)* mainstream primary, *(b)* mainstream secondary and *(c)* special needs schools in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [141232]

Jim Knight: The table which has been placed in the House Libraries shows the pupil to teacher ratio in maintained primary, secondary and special schools in each local authority in England, January 1997 to 2006.

Curriculum: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1702, on curriculum: expenditure, whether the £3 billion allocated to the delivery of free nursery education for three and four-year-olds is additional to the £3 billion allocated to local authorities through the General Sure Start Grant; and what the timetable is for the allocation of such funding; [144991]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 983, on nursery services, whether the further £3 billion per year allocated by his Department to children's centres has been transferred to local authorities; on what basis it is distributed to individual authorities; what mechanisms are in place to analyse the spending of this funding; and for what period this annual spending has been committed. [144992]

Beverley Hughes: The funding of around £3 billion a year for delivery of the free entitlement to nursery education for 3 and 4-year-olds is provided to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and is additional to the £3 billion of funding allocated to local authorities through the General Sure Start Grant (GSSG) for the period 2006-08.

The school funding settlement for 2006-08 announced in December 2005 set out individual local authority allocations of DSG for 2006-07 and 2007-08 subject to finalisation in light of actual pupil numbers. Distribution of DSG funding to schools and other providers is up to each individual LA in consultation with their School Forum.

GSSG allocations for the 2006-08 period were announced to local authorities by letter on 5 December 2005. Transformation Fund allocations (part of the GSSG) and additional funding for children's centres were announced by letter on 13 February 2006.

GSSG includes funding for Sure Start Children's Centres, extended schools, inclusion, workforce development, child care affordability and sustainability initiatives, and the implementation of the new duties in the Childcare Act. Local authorities have the freedom to decide how much is spent on each of these areas within the Main Revenue and Main Capital elements of GSSG.

The distribution methodology takes account of factors including numbers of children, areas of disadvantage and rurality.

Local authorities are required to report actual expenditure, for each of the blocks within the GSSG, at the end of quarters 2 and 3 of each financial year. Within one month of the year end, authorities are required to provide a more detailed breakdown of actual expenditure (including that for Sure Start Children's Centres) for the year.

The Department received its CSR settlement for 2008-11 in the 2007 Budget. Announcements about specific allocations will be made over the coming months.

Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men of (i) white, (ii) Afro-Caribbean and (iii) Asian ethnicity received (A) first class, (B) upper second class and (C) lower second class degrees in English universities in the last five years for which figures are available. [145395]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the tables. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

The Department undertook analysis to find out whether ethnicity, after controlling for other factors, still had predictive power in explaining degree attainment. The 'Ethnicity and Degree Attainment' report, published in January 2007, concluded that much of the attainment gap between students from

minority ethnic communities and their White peers could be explained by factors other than ethnicity (e.g. gender, prior attainment, disability, deprivation, subject, term-time accommodation, and age). However, even after controlling for these other factors, coming from a minority ethnic community was still found to have a statistically significant and negative effect on degree attainment. The research also showed that women are more likely to obtain a higher degree classification than men, except when it comes to attaining a first.

These findings do not automatically imply that there is some form of ethnic or gender bias within the HE system, and there are a number of other reasons which could explain the results obtained.

The Government are committed to ensuring that people from all backgrounds and all sections of society have the opportunity to benefit from the thrive in higher education. That is why we undertook this research and why we have asked the Higher Education Academy and Equality Challenge Unit to work with Higher Education Institutions, to investigate these results further. This work is supported by Universities UK and GuildHE and will build upon existing good practice. We have to ensure that every student regardless of race or sex is given equal opportunity to succeed within Higher Education. The full report can be accessed here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RW92.pdf

UK domiciled first degree qualifiers at English HEIs by degree classification obtained: 2001/02 to 2005/06

Percentage[1]

		2001/02			2002/03			2003/04		
Ethnicity	*Class of degree*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
White	First class honours	10	11	11	11	12	11	11	12	12
	Upper second class honours	53	44	49	52	43	48	52	44	49
	Lower second class honours	29	33	31	29	32	30	28	32	30
	Other[2]	8	12	10	8	12	10	8	12	10
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Black or Black British—Caribbean	First class honours	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3
	Upper second class honours	33	27	32	33	28	32	35	28	33
	Lower second class honours	48	48	48	46	42	45	45	46	46
	Other[2]	16	22	18	17	25	20	17	22	18
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Black or Black British—African	First class honours	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
	Upper second class honours	30	23	27	30	25	28	30	25	28
	Lower second class honours	46	44	45	49	44	47	46	45	45
	Other[2]	20	30	25	18	27	22	21	28	24
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other Black background	First class honours	4	6	5	3	4	4	3	3	3
	Upper second class honours	35	32	34	39	28	35	37	29	34
	Lower second class honours	45	41	43	43	44	43	44	45	45
	Other[2]	17	21	18	14	23	18	16	23	18
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Asian[3]	First class honours	6	7	6	6	7	6	6	7	7
	Upper second class honours	39	34	37	39	33	36	39	33	36
	Lower second class honours	40	37	39	39	39	39	39	39	39

UK domiciled first degree qualifiers at English eIEIs by degree classification obtained: 2001/02 to 2005/06

Percentage[1]

Ethnicity	Class of degree	2001/02 Female	2001/02 Male	2001/02 Total	2002/03 Female	2002/03 Male	2002/03 Total	2003/04 Female	2003/04 Male	2003/04 Total
	Other[2]	15	22	18	16	21	18	15	21	18
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other Ethnic background[4]	First class honours	8	9	9	8	9	8	8	10	9
	Upper second class honours	45	38	42	46	39	43	48	40	44
	Lower second class honours	35	36	36	34	35	35	33	33	33
	Other[2]	12	17	14	12	17	14	11	17	14
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total of known ethnicity	First class honours	9	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11
	Upper second class honours	50	42	47	50	42	46	50	42	47
	Lower second class honours	31	34	32	31	34	32	30	33	31
	Other[2]	9	14	11	9	14	11	9	14	11
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Percentage[1]

Ethnicity	Class of degree	2004/05 Female	2004/05 Male	2004/05 Total	2005/06 Female	2005/06 Male	2005/06 Total
White	First class honours	12	13	12	12	13	13
	Upper second class honours	52	44	49	52	45	49
	Lower second class honours	27	30	29	26	30	28
	Other[2]	9	13	11	10	12	11
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Black or Black British—Caribbean	First class honours	3	2	3	3	3	3
	Upper second class honours	35	32	34	36	28	34
	Lower second class honours	46	46	46	45	48	46
	Other[2]	15	20	17	17	21	18
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Black or Black British—African	First class honours	3	4	3	3	4	4
	Upper second class honours	32	27	30	30	28	29
	Lower second class honours	46	45	45	48	45	47
	Other[2]	19	25	22	18	23	20
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other Black background	First class honours	3	4	3	2	4	3
	Upper second class honours	32	25	30	33	33	33
	Lower second class honours	45	43	44	47	38	43
	Other[2]	19	29	23	18	25	20
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Asian[3]	First class honours	6	7	7	6	7	7

Percentage[1]

Ethnicity	Class of degree	2004/05 Female	2004/05 Male	2004/05 Total	2005/06 Female	2005/06 Male	2005/06 Total
	Upper second class honours	39	33	37	39	33	36
	Lower second class honours	39	38	38	39	38	38
	Other[2]	16	23	19	16	23	19
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other Ethnic background[4]	First class honours	9	11	9	9	10	10
	Upper second class honours	48	40	44	50	39	45
	Lower second class honours	33	35	34	30	35	32
	Other[2]	11	15	13	11	16	13
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total of known ethnicity	First class honours	11	12	11	11	12	12
	Upper second class honours	50	42	46	49	43	46
	Lower second class honours	29	32	30	29	31	30
	Other[2]	10	14	12	11	14	12
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Percentages are based upon all first degree qualifiers, not just those who obtain an honours qualification.
[2] 'Other' includes Undivided Second Class Honours, Third Class Honours, Fourth Class Honours, Unclassified honours, Aegrotat, Pass, Ordinary and General Degree.
[3] 'Asian' includes those qualifiers of Pakistani, Indian, Chinese, Bangladeshi and Other Asian backgrounds.
[4] Includes those of 'mixed' ethnic background and 'other' ethnic backgrounds.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

UK domiciled first degree qualifiers at English HEIs by degree classification obtained, 2001/02 to 2005/06

Number

Ethnicity	Class of degree	2001/02 Female	2001/02 Male	2001/02 Total	2002/03 Female	2002/03 Male	2002/03 Total	2003/04 Female	2003/04 Male	2003/04 Total
White	First class honours	9,135	7,835	16,970	10,090	8,490	18,580	10,810	8,770	19,580
	Upper second class honours	47,045	30,570	77,615	47,835	30,645	78,480	49,335	32,090	81,425
	Lower second class honours	26,270	23,155	49,425	26,660	22,835	49,495	26,610	22,880	49,490
	Other[1]	7,080	8,415	15,495	7,500	8,530	16,030	7,510	8,570	16,080
	Total	89,450	69,970	159,420	92,085	70,500	162,585	94,265	72,310	166,575
Black or Black British - Caribbean	First class honours	45	15	60	55	25	80	45	30	75
	Upper second class honours	500	165	665	530	180	690	605	210	815
	Lower second class honours	720	290	1,010	710	265	975	780	350	1,130
	Other[1]	240	135	370	270	160	430	290	165	455
	Total	1,500	610	2,105	1,550	630	2,180	1,715	755	2,470
Black or Black British - African	First class honours	60	50	110	55	65	125	80	50	130
	Upper second class honours	565	345	910	625	405	1,035	715	455	1,170

UK-domiciled first degree qualifiers at English HEIs by degree classification obtained: 2001/02 to 2005/06

Number

Ethnicity	*Class of degree*	*2001/02*			*2002/03*			*2003/04*		
		Female	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
	Lower second class honours	865	670	1,535	1,020	705	1,720	1,090	810	1,895
	Other[1]	370	460	830	385	435	820	480	500	980
	Total	1,865	1,520	3,385	2,085	1,610	3,695	2,370	1,810	4,185
Other Black background	First class honours	30	20	50	20	15	40	15	10	25
	Upper second class honours	255	120	380	260	110	365	210	95	310
	Lower second class honours	330	155	485	285	170	450	250	145	400
	Other[1]	125	80	205	95	90	185	90	75	165
	Total	740	380	1,120	655	385	1,040	565	325	895
Total Asian[3]	First class honours	565	605	1,170	595	710	1,305	730	780	1,510
	Upper second class honours	3,850	3,010	6,860	4,180	3,200	7,380	4,465	3,405	7,870
	Lower second class honours	3,895	3,355	7,250	4,155	3,770	7,925	4,425	4,050	8,475
	Other[1]	1,455	1,980	3,430	1,675	2,075	3,750	1,750	2,210	3,960
	Total	9,760	8,950	18,710	10,610	9,755	20,365	11,370	10,445	21,815
Other Ethnic background[4]	First class honours	175	140	315	195	145	340	230	210	440
	Upper second class honours	960	565	1,530	1,090	665	1,750	1,360	810	2,175
	Lower second class honours	765	545	1,305	800	600	1,405	950	670	1,620
	Other[1]	260	255	510	270	285	560	325	350	675
	Total	2,155	1,505	3,660	2,355	1,700	4,055	2,865	2,040	4,905
Total of known ethnicity	First class honours	10,005	8,665	18,670	11,015	9,455	20,475	11,915	9,845	21,760
	Upper second class honours	53,180	34,775	87,955	54,500	35,205	89,705	56,690	37,065	93,760
	Lower second class honours	32,840	28,165	61,010	33,630	28,340	61,975	34,100	28,905	63,005
	Other[1]	9,450	11,320	20,765	10,195	11,575	21,770	10,445	11,870	22,320
	Total	105,475	82,930	188,400	109,345	84,575	193,920	113,155	87,685	200,840
Not known missing	First class honours	315	280	590	350	295	645	300	265	565
	Upper second class honours	1,605	1,050	2,655	1,590	1,095	2,685	1,690	1,000	2,690
	Lower second class honours	1,350	1,070	2,425	1,310	1,115	2,425	1,430	1,095	2,525
	Other[1]	940	995	1,935	945	990	1,935	945	1,050	1,995
	Total	4,210	3,395	7,605	4,195	3,495	7,690	4,365	3,405	7,770

UK domiciled first degree qualifiers at English HEIs by degree classification obtained, 2001/02 to 2005/06

Number

		2001/02			2002/03			2003/04		
Ethnicity	*Class of degree*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Information refused	First class honours	235	225	455	220	190	410	200	170	370
	Upper second class honours	1,225	945	2,170	1,175	780	1,955	990	665	1,660
	Lower second class honours	920	825	1,745	860	740	1,595	630	605	1,235
	Other[1]	435	395	830	420	355	775	355	345	700
	Total	2,815	2,390	5,205	2,675	2,065	4,740	2,180	1,785	3,965
Total	First class honours	10,550	9,170	19,720	11,590	9,940	21,530	12,415	10,275	22,695
	Upper second class honours	56,010	36,770	92,780	57,265	37,080	94,345	59,375	38,730	98,105
	Lower second class honours	35,115	30,065	65,180	35,800	30,195	65,995	36,155	30,605	66,760
	Other[1]	10,820	12,715	23,535	11,565	12,920	24,480	11,750	13,265	25,015
	Total	112,500	88,715	201,215	116,215	90,135	206,350	119,695	92,875	212,575

Number

		2004/05			2005/06		
Ethnicity	*Class of degree*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
White	First class honours	11,440	9,415	20,855	12,590	9,980	22,575
	Upper second class honours	50,495	33,020	83,510	52,255	33,790	86,045
	Lower second class honours	26,740	22,535	49,275	26,725	22,360	49,085
	Other[1]	9,030	9,365	18,400	9,660	9,350	19,010
	Total	97,705	74,335	172,040	101,235	75,480	176,715
Black or Black British—Caribbean	First class honours	60	20	80	55	25	80
	Upper second class honours	645	255	900	675	250	925
	Lower second class honours	855	370	1,225	840	425	1,260
	Other[1]	285	160	445	315	180	495
	Total	1,850	800	2,650	1,880	880	2,760
Black or Black British—African	First class honours	75	90	165	110	100	210
	Upper second class honours	855	550	1,405	1,005	675	1,675
	Lower second class honours	1,235	925	2,160	1,590	1,100	2,690
	Other[1]	515	510	1,025	590	560	1,150
	Total	2,680	2,075	4,760	3,290	2,435	5,725
Other Black background	First class honours	15	10	25	10	10	25
	Upper second class honours	155	65	220	170	95	265
	Lower second class honours	215	115	330	240	105	345
	Other[1]	90	75	170	90	70	165
	Total	480	265	745	515	285	800

Number

Ethnicity	Class of degree	2004/05 Female	2004/05 Male	2004/05 Total	2005/06 Female	2005/06 Male	2005/06 Total
Total Asian[2]	First class honours	725	760	1,485	740	830	1,570
	Upper second class honours	4,735	3,580	8,315	4,910	3,640	8,550
	Lower second class honours	4,630	4,060	8,690	4,825	4,275	9,095
	Other[1]	1,915	2,300	4,210	2,040	2,385	4,425
	Total	12,005	10,700	22,705	12,515	11,125	23,640
Other Ethnic background[3]	First class honours	290	255	545	335	275	610
	Upper second class honours	1,585	950	2,535	1,815	1,035	2,850
	Lower second class honours	1,085	840	1,925	1,090	945	2,035
	Other[1]	370	350	720	400	415	815
	Total	3,330	2,395	5,725	3,635	2,670	6,305
Total of known ethnicity	First class honours	12,605	10,550	23,155	13,840	11,225	25,060
	Upper second class honours	58,470	38,425	96,890	60,835	39,480	100,315
	Lower second class honours	34,760	28,840	63,600	35,305	29,210	64,515
	Other[1]	12,210	12,760	24,970	13,095	12,960	26,050
	Total	118,045	90,575	208,620	123,070	92,870	215,940
Not known missing	First class honours	320	215	535	325	180	505
	Upper second class honours	1,650	935	2,585	1,555	895	2,450
	Lower second class honours	1,565	1,275	2,835	1,590	1,160	2,750
	Other[1]	1,250	1,370	2,620	1,325	1,270	2,595
	Total	4,780	3,795	8,575	4,790	3,505	8,300
Information refused	First class honours	165	175	340	135	170	300
	Upper second class honours	685	620	1,305	635	535	1,170
	Lower second class honours	585	545	1,130	445	460	905
	Other[1]	280	380	660	255	245	500
	Total	1,715	1,720	3,440	1,470	1,410	2,875
Total	First class honours	13,090	10,940	24,025	14,295	11,575	25,870
	Upper second class honours	60,805	39,980	100,785	63,025	40,910	103,935
	Lower second class honours	36,910	30,660	67,570	37,340	30,830	68,170
	Other[1]	13,740	14,515	28,250	14,670	14,475	29,145
	Total	124,545	96,090	220,635	129,330	97,790	227,115

Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
[1] 'Other' includes Undivided Second Class Honours, Third Class Honours, Fourth Class Honours, Unclassified honours, Aegrotat, Pass, Ordinary and General Degree.
[2] 'Asian' includes those qualifiers of Pakistani, Indian, Chinese, Bangladeshi and Other Asian backgrounds.
[3] Includes those of 'mixed' ethnic background and 'other' ethnic backgrounds.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

Degrees: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men received (i) first class, (ii) upper second class and (iii) lower second class degrees from *(A)* all UK universities, *(B)* Russell Group universities and *(C)* Oxbridge in each of the last five

years, broken down by number of UCAS points on university entry. [144891]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the table; comparable information for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008. Comparable figures split by UCAS tariff scores are not readily available.

Number and percentage[1] of qualifiers[2] from first degree courses by gender, class of degree and type of institution, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2001/02 to 2004/05

	Female					Male				
Academic year	First class honours	Upper second class honours	Lower second class honours	Other[3]	Total	First class honours	Upper second class honours	Lower second class honours	Other[3]	Total
2001/02										
All UK HEIs										
Number	14,050	73,015	46,250	19,150	152,465	12,405	48,225	40,260	21,085	121,975
Percentage	9.2	47.9	30.3	12.6	100.0	10.2	39.5	33.0	17.3	100.0
Of which:										
Russell Group										
Number	4,285	17,665	5,575	3,890	31,415	4,655	13,295	6,580	4,180	28,710
Percentage	13.6	56.2	17.7	12.4	100.0	16.2	46.3	22.9	14.6	100.0
Of which:										
Oxbridge										
Number	715	2,000	305	190	3,210	1,145	1,955	405	205	3,710
Percentage	22.3	62.3	9.5	5.9	100.0	30.9	52.7	10.9	5.5	100.0
2002/03										
All UK HEIs										
Number	15,365	75,055	47,345	20,190	157,955	13,275	48,745	40,870	21,545	124,435
Percentage	9.7	47.5	30.0	12.8	100.0	10.7	39.2	32.8	17.3	100.0
Of which:										
Russell Group										
Number	4,625	18,305	5,880	3,940	32,750	4,850	13,440	6,675	4,185	29,150
Percentage	14.1	55.9	18.0	12.0	100.0	16.6	46.1	22.9	14.4	100.0
Of which:										
Oxbridge										
Number	780	2,050	310	180	3,320	1,150	1,780	355	200	3,485
Percentage	23.5	61.7	9.3	5.4	100.0	33.0	51.1	10.2	5.7	100.0
2003/04										
All UK HEIs										
Number	16,390	77,240	48,515	21,380	163,525	13,785	50,695	41,940	22,145	128,565
Percentage	10.0	47.2	29.7	13.1	100.0	10.7	39.4	32.6	17.2	100.0
Of which:										
Russell Group										
Number	4,805	19,355	6,220	4,100	34,480	4,855	13,885	6,735	4,185	29,660
Percentage	13.9	56.1	18.0	11.9	100.0	16.4	46.8	22.7	14.1	100.0
Of which:										
Oxbridge										
Number	680	2,270	315	205	3,470	885	1,880	460	230	3,455
Percentage	19.6	65.4	9.1	5.9	100.0	25.6	54.4	13.3	6.7	100.0
2004/05										
All UK HEIs										
Number	17,580	80,130	50,145	24,630	172,485	14,885	52,640	42,455	23,900	133,880
Percentage	10.2	46.5	29.1	14.3	100.0	11.1	39.3	31.7	17.9	100.0
Of which:										
Russell Group										
Number	5,240	20,700	6,965	4,635	37,540	5,270	15,335	7,440	4,420	32,465
Percentage	14.0	55.1	18.6	12.3	100.0	16.2	47.2	22.9	13.6	100.0

Number and percentage[1] of qualifiers[2] from first degree courses by gender, class of degree and type of institution, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2001/02 to 2004/05

	Female					Male				
Academic year	*First class honours*	*Upper second class honours*	*Lower second class honours*	*Other[3]*	*Total*	*First class honours*	*Upper second class honours*	*Lower second class honours*	*Other[3]*	*Total*
Of which:										
Oxbridge										
Number	675	2,150	295	220	3,340	945	1,920	445	235	3,545
Percentage	20.2	64.4	8.8	6.6	100.0	26.7	54.2	12.6	6.6	100.0
2005/06										
All UK HEIs										
Number	19,160	83,180	50,925	25,615	178,880	15,665	54,050	43,325	24,060	137,100
Percentage	10.7	46.5	28.5	14.3	100.0	11.4	39.4	31.6	17.5	100.0
Of which:										
Russell Group										
Number	5,600	21,100	6,695	4,975	38,370	5,500	15,500	7,295	4,430	32,725
Percentage	14.6	55.0	17.4	13.0	100.0	16.8	47.4	22.3	13.5	100.0
Of which:										
Oxbridge										
Number	690	2,210	280	295	3,475	1,020	1,795	360	295	3,470
Percentage	19.9	63.6	8.1	8.5	100.0	29.4	51.7	10.4	8.5	100.0

[1] Percentages are based upon all first degree qualifiers, not just those who obtain an honours qualification.
[2] Includes students from the UK and Overseas.
[3] Other includes Undivided Second Class Honours, Third Class Honours, Fourth Class Honours, Unclassified honours, Aegrotat, Pass, Ordinary and General Degree.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144930]

Bill Rammell: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Information requested on overseas travel undertaken by civil servants across the whole Department is not held centrally and could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145291]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills spent the following amounts via departmental credit, procurement and fuel cards in each of the last three years.

	Amount (£)
2004/05	
Credit cards	3,102
Procurement cards	342,329
Fuel cards	29,205
2005/06	
Credit cards	5,734
Procurement cards	328,261
Fuel cards	62,328
2006/07	
Credit cards	26,955
Procurement cards	384,062
Fuel cards	51,369

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 117W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, (1) what factors were taken into account in deciding to carry out a joint review of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [144459]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the terms of reference for the joint reviews of *(a)* Building Schools for the Future, *(b)* primary and secondary

school standards, *(c)* pupil attendance and *(d)* pupil behaviour; [144461]

(3) what the findings were of the joint review of Building Schools for the Future. [144978]

Jim Knight: The reports and other associated documentation following joint PMDU reviews are confidential advice to Ministers and are not put into the public domain. This includes terms of reference and other documentation connected with the substance of the review.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144929]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held within the Department.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144472]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers have signed a number of bilateral agreements, including some formal Memoranda of Understanding, with a number of countries, including Brazil, China, France and Germany. Most of these are typically based on collaboration in education and training, including the exchange of best policy practice, teacher and student mobility programmes and institutional partnerships. These are delivered largely, though not exclusively, through the British Council.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143885]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I can however confirm that home working is available to all staff in the Department for Education and Skills and currently 50 per cent. of staff can access the Department's IT infrastructure from home.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144625]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget is used to fund a wide range of publicity activity, including advertising and marketing campaigns. Expenditure from this budget in the last five years is as follows:

	£000
2002-03	14,091
2003-04	16,943
2004-05	12,489
2005-06	9,391
2006-07	10,686

In addition to expenditure from this central budget, individual departmental programme budgets are often used to fund marketing activity, including advertising. It is not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to separately identify all this activity. However, it is possible to itemise all the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. This is as follows:

	£000
2002-03	
Adult Basic Skills	5,478
Childcare Recruitment	2,741
Aim Higher	2,645
Connexions	1,320
HE Funding	655
Foundation Degree	549
Total	13,790
2003-04	
Adult Basic Skills	6,673
Aim Higher	4,190
Childcare Recruitment	2,987
Foundation Degrees	2,814
Connexions	2,608
Total	20,170
2004-05	
EMA	1,995
Sure Start Month	127
Adult Basic Skills Gremlins	4,247
Teenage Pregnancy (DFES contribution)	980
Student Finance	867
DFES Classified/Recruitment Advertising	31
EMA	1,559
Fast Track Teaching	69
Foundation Degrees	483
DFES Childcare	281
Need to Know	275
Parents Centre	172
Total	11,088

	£000[1]
2005-06	
EMA	1,261
Teenage Pregnancy	1,081
Childcare Recruitment	591
Adult Basic Skills	1,570
Student Finance	2,057
Parents Centre	143
Foundation Degrees	634
Fast Track Teaching	18
DirectGov Parenting Franchise	440
DirectGov Education and Learning Franchise	85
Need to Know	54
Total	7,939
2006-07	
Student finance	2,476
Adult basic Skills	1,805
Teenage pregnancy	1,534
Child care recruitment	405
Children and Young people's workforce insert	45
Total	6,265

[1] Includes spend on advertising from within the central Advertising and Publicity Budget, included in the previous table.

The Department uses advertising as part of information campaigns to inform the public about how our policies affect them and how they can best take advantage of the educational and learning opportunities available to them. All of our campaigns follow the guidelines on propriety and value for money which apply to Government information.

All of our advertising is commissioned through the Central Office of Information.

(b) Spend on advertising and marketing by Departmental agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which destinations he visited in an official capacity between 17 May and 17 June. [144549]

Alan Johnson: During the dates specified, I visited the following places in the UK in an official capacity.

Date visited	*Destination*
21 May	Bristol
23 May	Birmingham
31 May	Belfast
8 June	Leicester

Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the House Library. Information for the financial year 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the current rate of employer contribution is to each public sector pension scheme for which his Department has responsibility; what the revenue impact would be of capping the employer contribution to each such scheme at 14 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [144298]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's employer contribution for 2006-07 for each of the public sector pension schemes is as follows:

	£
Classic	17,611,364.30
Classic Plus/Premium	7,105,237.09

The information requested on what the revenue impact would be of capping the employer contribution to each such scheme at 14 per cent. is not retained centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145274]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills undertook 62 public consultations in the last 12 months. These consultations are listed in the following table.

Information on the cost of each consultation could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Consultation	*Published*
2006	
The Ofsted Child Register	6 July
Financial Management Standard in Schools—Timetable for all Schools	10 July
Child Protection: Safer Recruitment and Vetting in the Education Service	17 July
The Higher Education Programme—Consultation for Race Equality Impact Assessment Purposes	1 August
Modernising the Regulatory Framework for Children's Social Services	4 August
Childcare Sufficiency Assessments	14 August
Regulations on Extension of the DDA 1995 to cover General Qualification Bodies	4 September
Children Missing Education—Draft Statutory Guidance to Support Clause 4 of the Education and Inspections Bill 2006	7 September

Consultation	*Published*
School Admissions Consultation 2006	8 September
Consultation on Draft Regulations setting out the process for setting statutory targets for local authorities under the Childcare Act 2006	21 September
Data Collection Regulation	21 September
Information Sharing Index: Consultation on Draft Information Sharing Index (England) Regulations and Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment	21 September
Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances; the implications for race equality	29 September
Childcare Act 2006—Section 12 duty to provide information, advice and assistance	2 October
Consultation on the Draft Employment Equality (sexual orientation) (religion or belief) Regulations 2006	4 October
Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care	9 October
Young Person's Guide to the Care Matters Green Paper	9 October
Amendments to Regulations Under Section 142 of the Education Act and the Childcare Disqualification Regulations Which Apply to Applications for Registration Made Under Part XA of the Children's Act 1989	13 October
Supplementary Consultation on School Admissions	7 November
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on School Organisation and Governance Regulations and Guidance	13 November
Personalising Further Education: Developing a Vision	20 November
International GCSEs in the Maintained Sector in England	23 November
Definition of Full Time Education in Independent Schools	30 November
Financial Benchmarking Website—Identifying Schools by Name	5 December
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on School Travel Guidance	11 December
European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training	12 December
Quality Standards for Young People's Information, Advice and Guidance	13 December
Language Review	14 December
Consultation on Regulations and Guidance on Management Committees for Pupil Referral Units	20 December
Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development Requirements Order	20 December
2007	
Education and Inspections Act 2006: Consultation on Statutory Guidance on Schools Causing Concern	4 January
Statutory Guidance on Section 6 Education and Inspection Act (Positive Activities for Young People)	5 January
Delivering World Class Skills in a Demand Led System	5 January
Making Good Progress	8 January
Exemptions from Ofsted Childcare Registration	22 January
Post 16 Progression Measure	29 January
Consultation on Draft Regulations to Apply Section 62A of the Education Act 2002 to Pupil Referral Units	2 February
Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession	2 February
Securing Sufficient Childcare	7 February
Skills Strategy Equality Impact Assessment	20 February
Draft Guidance for School Staff: Screening or Searching Pupils for Weapons (Clause 45 in the Violent Crime Reduction Act)	20 February
Consultation on Revised Exclusions Guidance - September 2007	23 February
Review of the Regulations Requiring Schools Maintained by Local Authorities to Set Attendance Targets	26 February
Consultation on School, Early Years and 14-16 Funding 2008-11	7 March
Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development Exemptions	1 March
DfES Guidance to Schools on School Uniform Related Policies	20 March
Raising Expectations; Staying in Education and Training Post-16	22 March
Consultation on New Charging Regulations for Music Tuition	28 March
Children's Workforce Strategy	29 March
Childcare Registration Requirements	4 April
Education and Training for Young People in the Youth Justice System	4 April
Increasing the Leaving Age—Have Your Say	25 April
ContactPoint Consultation on Draft Guidance	4 May
Consultation on Home Education Guidelines	8 May
Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion	8 May
Consultation on Draft Amendments to the Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 made under the Education Act 2002	11 May
The Education (National Curriculum) (Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals) (Amendment) (England) draft Order 2007 and The Education (National Curriculum) (Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study in English) (Amendment) (England) draft Order 2007	18 May
Raising Standards Improving Outcomes: Draft Statutory Guidance on the Early Years Outcomes Duty	23 May
Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Regulations and Guidance for the Induction of Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)	25 May
Implementing Youth Matters: continuing the dialogue with young people	30 May

Consultation	Published
Mandatory Collection of P Scales Data for Pupils with SEN	31 May
Section 58 of Children Act 2004 Review (Consultation)	15 June

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139521]

Alan Johnson: The amount spent on advertising in the last five years by the Department for Education and Skills is as follows;

	Amount (£ million)
2002-03	13.790
2003-04	20.170
2004-05	11.088
2005-06	7.939
2006-07	6.265

The Department uses advertising as part of information campaigns to inform the public about how our policies affect them and how they can best take advantage of the educational and learning opportunities available to them.

In 2006-07, these campaigns included:

Information for young people and their parents about the financial help available to students taking higher education courses;

Information for young people and their parents about drugs and their effects; and

Information about sex and relationships as part of a campaign to help reduce rates of teenage pregnancy.

Costs of advertising placed by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [145912]

Alan Johnson: In 2006-07, the Department spent £6.265 million on advertising.

The Department uses advertising as part of information campaigns to inform the public about how our policies affect them and how they can best take advantage of the educational and learning opportunities available to them.

In 2006-07, these campaigns included:

Information for young people and their parents about the financial help available to students taking higher education courses;

Information for young people and their parents about drugs and their effects; and

Information about sex and relationships as part of a campaign to help reduce rates of teenage pregnancy.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140034]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department was established in June 2001. Some information is available for payments made by the Department as set out as follows. No information is collected centrally for payments of this type made by the Department's agencies.

In 2002/03 recruitment consultants used to fill departmental posts were paid £584,976. In 2003/04 the amount paid was £335,321. Information was not collected in the same form in 2004/05 and 2005/06. In 2006/07 the amount paid in respect of recruitment to senior civil service posts only (the information for 2002/03 and 2003/04 relates to posts of all grades including SCS) in the Department was £354,144. Payments for the financial years 2004/05 and 2005/06, and the total payment for 2006/07 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143797]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has not procured services, products or made any payments to Remploy in the last 12 months.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145257]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has undertaken one full staff survey in the last 12 months—in May 2007. The spend to date for this survey is £25,000. As the survey has only recently been completed there is an anticipated further expenditure of approximately £10,000 for data analysis and reporting.

Education: Sustainable Development

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made on the European strategy for education for sustainable development. [144249]

Bill Rammell: In 2005, members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted a regional strategy for education for sustainable development. The objective of the strategy is to incorporate key themes of sustainable development in all education systems, including poverty alleviation, democracy, justice, human rights, environmental protection, and natural resource management. The Department adopted the

UNECE SD strategy and this is reflected in "Learning for the Future"—the DfES Sustainable Development Action Plan published in March 2006. UNECE is currently preparing an initial progress report on the implementation of the European strategy, and this will be presented at Sixth Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe" in Belgrade in October.

Foster Care

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research his Department has evaluated on the reasons for breakdown of *(a)* foster family units and *(b)* families with an adopted child or children. [144470]

Mr. Dhanda: As part of its Adoption Research Initiative, the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) is currently funding research into 'The characteristics, outcomes and meanings of four types of permanent placement'. This research is investigating the outcomes of placements for children, including the reasons for placement breakdowns. Its aim is to compare four types of permanent placement for looked after children: carer adoption, stranger adoption, long-term foster care and Special Guardianship. This work, which is being conducted by York University's Social Work Research and Development Unit, builds upon a recently completed DFES-funded study also undertaken by York University, which also includes a detailed analysis of the breakdown of placements. The current study is due to report to the Department in September 2008.

Free School Meals: City Academies

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average percentage is of the pupil intake in receipt of free school meals in each *(a)* city technology college (CTC), *(b)* academy CTC, *(c)* academy and (d) category of specialist school. [141577]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the tables.

Two sets of figures relating to the number and proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals are given in the school level table. The first includes all pupils in the school, regardless of their age. The second includes full time pupils aged up to (and including) 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15 (inclusive). This second coverage is as used in the Achievement and Attainment Tables and Ofsted's PANDA reports and provides consistent school level comparisons.

City technology colleges and academies: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free meals, January 2007[1] schools in England

		All pupils[2]		*Achievement and attainment tables*[3]	
Local authority name	*School name*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
City Technology Colleges					
Southwark	Bacon's College	326	30.2	279	31.6
Wandsworth	ADT College	235	22.0	219	24.7
Croydon	BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology	100	11.7	31	11.4
Solihull	The City Technology College	310	20.0	238	19.8
Gateshead	Emmanuel College	70	5.7	65	6.7
Kent	The Leigh City Technology College	83	6.1	73	6.6
Northamptonshire	Brooke Weston CTC	46	4.0	36	3.9
Telford and Wrekin	Thomas Telford School	128	10.9	100	11.9
Croydon	Harris City Technology College	111	10.1	99	11.4
South Gloucestershire	John Cabot City Technology College	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Academies					
Liverpool	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	312	47.1	312	47.1
Greenwich	St Paul's Academy	179	25.6	179	25.6
Solihull	Grace Academy	319	28.0	319	29.6
Reading	John Madejski Academy	151	29.1	150	30.4
Bradford	Dixons City Academy	79	7.2	59	7.2
Westminster	Paddington Academy	501	50.8	429	54.7
Barnsley	The Barnsley Academy	165	37.3	159	37.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	Burlington Danes Academy	167	20.6	167	20.6
Sheffield	Sheffield Park Academy	385	36.3	385	36.3
Merton	Harris Academy Merton	195	30.0	195	30.0
Leeds	David Young Community Academy	378	42.1	373	42.1
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow Academy	216	31.8	215	31.9
Thurrock	The Gateway Academy	297	36.3	296	36.2

City technology colleges and academies: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free meals, January 2007[1] schools in England

		All pupils[2]		Achievement and attainment tables[3]	
Local authority name	*School name*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Haringey	Greig City Academy	308	39.1	252	37.4
Walsall	Walsall Academy	96	11.4	82	12.0
Middlesbrough	Unity City Academy	466	45.0	466	45.0
Bexley	The Business Academy Bexley	394	35.9	368	36.6
Bristol City of	The City Academy Bristol	573	44.9	381	39.7
Southwark	City of London Academy (Southwark)	273	34.2	273	36.5
Manchester	Manchester Academy	408	50.0	400	51.2
Brent	Capital City Academy	373	35.4	318	35.1
Nottingham	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	597	37.5	446	32.7
Ealing	West London Academy	394	46.3	326	44.2
Hackney	Mossbourne Community Academy	249	40.6	249	40.6
Hillingdon	Stockley Academy	298	40.3	274	40.8
Barnet	London Academy	545	41.3	432	43.0
Northamptonshire	Northampton Academy	208	15.7	193	16.2
Lambeth	Lambeth Academy	229	43.0	229	43.0
Sandwell	Sandwell Academy	57	16.8	26	14.4
Doncaster	Trinity Academy	184	15.4	176	16.4
Salford	Salford City Academy	105	18.0	105	18.0
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	293	21.3	181	17.5
Derby	Landau Forte College	99	9.6	88	11.2
Kent	The Marlowe Academy	197	29.1	187	31.5
Hackney	The Petchey Academy	86	47.8	86	47.8
Liverpool	North Liverpool Academy	448	39.1	406	41.1
Westminster	Westminster Academy	306	40.9	306	40.9
Sheffield	Sheffield Springs Academy	345	35.0	342	34.8
Merton	St Marks Church of England Academy	195	27.1	194	27.0
Middlesbrough	The King's Academy	273	25.3	257	26.3
Southwark	The Academy at Peckham	626	53.1	532	50.9
Hillingdon	The Harefield Academy	90	16.0	88	17.4
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	325	44.3	321	44.0
Middlesbrough	Macmillan Academy	377	25.5	293	25.8
Southwark	Harris Academy Bermondsey	533	60.6	532	60.6
Southwark	Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	314	40.5	312	40.6

n/a = Not available. A return had not been received from this school at the time the data cut was taken.
[1] Provisional.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration of all ages.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part time and aged 5 to 15 (inclusive).
Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools by type of specialism[1]: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: January 2007[2]

Main specialism of school	*Number of pupils known to be known to be eligible for free school*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals*
Arts	67,700	14.4
Language	24,450	9.6
Sports	52,390	14.4
Technology	72,570	11.6
Business and Enterprise	34,510	15.2
Engineering	7,040	13.2
Maths and Computing	29,900	11.6

Maintained secondary schools by type of specialism[1]: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: January 2007[2]

Main specialism of school	*Number of pupils known to be known to be eligible for free school*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals*
Science	31,710	10.1
Science and Maths and Computing	730	5.7
Science and Arts	190	10.0
Science and Engineering	160	10.9
Maths and Computing with Enterprise	n/a	n/a

Maintained secondary schools by type of specialism[1]: Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: January 2007[2]

Main specialism of school	Number of pupils known to be known to be eligible for free school	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals
Maths and Computing and Engineering	n/a	n/a
Technology and Engineering	n/a	n/a
Business and Enterprise and Arts	390	10.0
Music	2,190	10.3
Humanities	11,530	12.9
Arts and Humanities	80	8.5
Arts and Language	530	41.2
Arts and Technology	100	3.7
Music and Maths and Computing	140	7.0
Humanities and Maths and Computing	70	7.4
Language and Business and Enterprise	230	15.0
Sports and Arts	310	12.8
Business and Enterprise and Humanities	220	5.5
Arts and Science	450	6.5
Business and Enterprise and Language	50	4.7
Business and Enterprise and Sports	240	18.8
Business and Enterprise and Maths and Computing	210	9.4
Engineering and Technology	170	3.8
Engineering and Business and Enterprise	30	3.0
Engineering and Maths and Computing	110	17.6
Engineering and Science	410	8.7
Maths and Computing and Language	50	3.5
Science and Sports	270	9.4
Science and Maths and Computing	n/a	n/a
Arts and Maths and Computing	90	8.3
Business and Enterprise and Music	170	23.7
Business and Enterprise and Science	360	15.0
Business and Enterprise and Technology	140	26.0
Humanities and Language	320	18.4
Humanities and Music	80	3.5
Humanities and Sports	140	9.5
Language and Engineering	20	1.6
Language and Music	100	13.0
Language and Sports	120	10.5
Science and Business and Enterprise	110	8.0
Science and Humanities	180	4.0
Science and Technology	130	15.4
Technology and Humanities	370	29.5
Technology and Language	100	6.8
Technology and Sports	30	3.8
Arts and Sports	170	8.4
Humanities and Arts	930	23.1
Humanities and Business and Enterprise	320	36.4
Language and Arts	270	39.7
Maths and Computing and Humanities	100	16.0
Maths and Computing and Science	230	13.5
Maths and Computing and Sports	90	7.1
Sports and Maths and Computing	260	13.2
Sports and Science	430	12.6
Technology and Arts	690	21.2
Technology and Music	50	6.5
Total	345,050	12.4

n/a = Not applicable, no schools of this type
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes dually registered and boarding pupils.
Source:
School Census

Free School Meals: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children attending *(a)* denominational and *(b)* maintained schools in the local education authority in West Lancashire constituency were entitled to receive free school dinners in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2005-06. [143521]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following tables:

Maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units[1, 2]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, position in January each year: 1997 and 2006

	West Lancashire parliamentary constituency					
	1997			*2006*		
	Number of day pupils[3]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number of day pupils[4]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
Maintained Nursery	79	0	0.0	72	0	0.0
Maintained Primary	9,391	2,497	26.6	8,194	1,253	15.3
Of which: denominational schools	5,527	1,185	21.4	5,216	578	11.1
Maintained Secondary	6,212	1,391	22.4	6,163	914	14.8
Of which: denominational schools	2,622	451	17.2	1,523	202	13.3
Maintained Special	248	127	51.2	188	86	45.7
Pupil Referral Units	22	14	63.6	79	12	15.2
Total Maintained Schools	15,952	4,029	25.3	14,696	2,265	15.4

England

	1997			2006		
	Number of day pupils[1]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Number of day pupils[4]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Maintained Nursery	50,840	6,050	11.9	37,030	3,430	9.3
Maintained Primary	4,428,620	938,540	21.2	4,150,590	666,890	16.1
Of which: denominational schools	1,235,350	205,680	16.6	1,202,250	140,270	11.7
Maintained Secondary	3,036,990	552,900	18.2	3,309,720	448,680	13.6
Of which: denominational schools	604,780	91,460	15.1	527,040	61,840	11.7
Maintained Special	99,450	38,810	43.4	86,850	28,870	33.2
Pupil Referral Units	11,930	3,840	32.1	23,670	6,130	25.9
Total Maintained Schools	7,617,830	1,540,140	20.2	7,607,860	1,154,010	15.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration. Excludes boarders.
[4] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration. Includes boarders.
[5] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of learner support funds for 16 to 18-year-olds in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the cost is expected to be in 2007-08. [131577]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate learner support schemes for 16 to 19-year-olds on behalf of the DfES and hold information on the costs involved in the schemes. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 23 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked, "What the cost was of Learner Support Funds for 16 to 18 year olds in (a) 2005-06 and (b) 2006-07; and what the cost is expected to be in 2007-08".

The amount of Discretionary Learner Support Fund used to support students aged 16-18 (16-18 Hardship, School Sixth Forms Hardship and 16-18 Residential Bursaries) is as follows:

2005-06 £40.6m (Actual Spend; 2005-06 Annual Accounts)

2006-07 £23.8m (Provisional Outturn)

The over all Discretionary Learner Support Fund budget is available to support learners in both the 16-18 and 19 and over age groups. There is a high degree of flexibility in the budget and we are at an early stage in the year. We would not anticipate establishing the expected spend on discretionary LSF for learners aged 16-18 in 2007-08 until after the start of the academic year 2007/08.

I hope that you find that this information answers your question.

GCSE: Languages

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in Edmonton have taken GCSEs in modern languages in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [139797]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained mainstream schools did not achieve *(a)* five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics, *(b)* five A* to G grades at GCSE, *(c)* any grade above a D at GCSE and *(d)* any GCSEs in the last school year, broken down by (i) gender (ii) ethnicity and (iii) receipt of free school meals. [133241]

Jim Knight: Information about the achievement of five grades A* to C at GCSE including English and maths pupils and the achievement of any qualifications by gender, ethnicity and eligibility for free school meals is available in the Library. It is also available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml

The other information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many maintained mainstream schools less than *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent., *(c)* 25 per cent. and *(d)* 10 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE including English, maths and science at GCSE in the last school year for which figures are available. [133245]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, figures for all maintained schools can be found in the House of Commons Library in the reply to PQ 133245.

Information on the achievements of pupils in schools can be found in the achievement and attainment tables and published statistics which are available in the Library, and on the Department's website at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/performancetables/ and http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of pupils

achieved five or more GCSE passes at GCSE including *(a)* English and mathematics, *(b)* English, mathematics and science and *(c)* English, mathematics, science and a foreign language, broken down by (i) local authority, (ii) parliamentary constituency and (iii) local government ward. [134794]

Jim Knight: Information at local authority level is available in the Library. It is also published on the Department's website at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

Information for parliamentary constituencies and wards can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were entered for each *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* GNVQ subject in each academy in each of the last two years; and what grades were achieved in each category. [141946]

Jim Knight: In 2006, 3,539 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attended academies in England, an increase of 1,481 since 2005. The following table shows the GCSE attempts and achievements of pupils in academies in 2006 by subject.

GCSE attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects of pupils at the end of key stage 4[2] in academies by the end of 2005/06[3]

Number

	Attempted GCSE			*Achieved grades A*-C*			*Revised statistics (Thousand) Achieved grades A*-G*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
Any Subject	1,827	1,650	3,477	1,139	1,155	2,294	1,763	1,612	3,375
English/Mathematics	1,720	1,592	3,312	552	582	1,134	1,602	1,497	3,099
Mathematics/Science	1,537	1,413	2,950	524	468	992	1,422	1,301	2,723
English/Mathematics/Science	1,481	1,394	2,875	434	446	880	1,372	1,285	2,657
English/Mathematics/Science and a Modern Language	521	569	1,090	179	258	437	508	553	1,061
English	1,730	1,599	3,329	679	806	1,485	1,647	1,541	3,188
Mathematics	1,803	1,628	3,431	737	657	1,394	1,690	1,538	3,228
Any Science	1,542	1,420	2,962	591	541	1,132	1,447	1,330	2,777
Single Award Science	454	443	897	66	75	141	412	404	816
Double Award Science	854	752	1,606	409	347	756	813	709	1,522
Physics	87	100	187	80	88	168	87	100	187
Chemistry	107	133	240	81	99	180	106	133	239
Biological Sciences	140	154	294	89	101	190	132	148	280
Other Sciences	15	20	35	14	20	34	15	20	35
Any Design & Technology	1,074	898	1,972	433	552	987	1,005	868	1,873
D & T: Electronic Products	[4]—	[4]—	40	[4]—	[4]—	9	[4]—	[4]—	37
D & T: Food Technology	132	193	325	48	84	132	122	182	304
D & T: Graphic Products	207	163	370	69	99	168	193	157	350
D & T: Resistant Materials	498	253	751	202	167	369	468	249	717
D & T: Systems & Control	50	26	76	32	24	56	45	26	71
D & T: Textiles Technology	25	169	194	[4]—	[4]—	101	23	160	183
Other Design and Technology[5]	168	117	285	83	88	171	160	115	275
Information Technology[6]	233	186	419	44	71	115	178	152	330
Business Studies	167	140	307	87	85	172	153	136	289
Home Economics	39	146	185	6	51	57	37	125	162
Geography	281	247	528	140	156	296	255	236	491
History	353	327	680	190	186	376	329	321	650
Humanities	17	8	25	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	14	8	22
Social Studies	28	84	112	[4]—	[4]—	39	23	73	96
Music	166	132	298	83	67	150	153	126	279
Any Modern Language	577	635	1,212	291	398	689	570	628	1,198
French	277	304	581	107	190	297	276	302	578
German	146	149	295	82	98	180	145	149	294
Spanish	87	137	224	43	83	126	86	135	221
Italian	5	4	9	[4]—	[4]—	4	5	4	9
Other Modern Languages	99	94	193	79	60	139	93	89	182
Art and Design	437	544	981	197	352	549	426	528	954
English Literature	1,161	1,207	2,368	558	710	1,268	1,104	1,156	2,260

GCSE attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects of pupils at the end of key stage 4[2] in academies by the end of 2005/06[3]

Number

Revised statistics (Thousand)

	Attempted GCSE			Achieved grades A*-C			Achieved grades A*-G		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Drama	231	298	529	97	144	241	210	261	471
Media/Film/TV	171	195	366	106	139	245	171	191	362
Communication Studies	7	8	15	[4]—	[4]—	6	7	8	15
Classical Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	472	271	743	243	102	345	472	263	735
Religious Studies	217	231	448	127	159	286	213	228	441
Any other subjects	55	63	118	26	18	44	46	51	97

[1] For each subject only one attempt is counted—that which achieved the highest grade.
[2] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the 2005/06 academic year.
[3] Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[4] Figures are suppressed due to small numbers.
[5] Includes all other combined syllabus of which Design and Technology is the major part.
[6]Also includes Computer Studies, Information Systems and any combined syllabus of which Information Technology is the major part.

The following table shows the GNVQ attempts and achievements of pupils in academies by subject:

GNVQ attempts and achievements of pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in academies, by subject by the end of 2005/06[2] Revised statistics

	Attempted full intermediate GNVQ			Achieved full intermediate GNVQ		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
All Subjects	781	687	1,468	595	583	1,178
Art and Design	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business	34	47	81	31	45	76
Health and Social Care	[3]—	[3]—	61	[3]—	[3]—	56
Leisure and Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality and Catering	[3]—	[3]—	6	[3]—	[3]—	6
Science	169	136	305	108	104	212
Engineering	[3]—	[3]—	34	[3]—	[3]—	23
Information Technology	531	417	948	430	364	794
Media: Communication and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land and Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts	12	21	33	[3]—	[3]—	11

	Attempted full foundation GNVQ			Achieved full foundation GNVQ		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
All Subjects	15	7	22	10	6	16
Art and Design	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business	10	0	10	7	0	7
Health and Social Care	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Leisure and Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality and Catering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	0	0	0
Media: Communication and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land and Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the 2005/06 academic year.
[2] Includes attempts and achievement by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Figures are suppressed due to small numbers.

The following table shows the GCSE attempts and achievements of pupils in academies in 2005 by subject.

GCSE attempts and achievements[1] in selected subjects of pupils at the end of key stage 4[2] in academies by the end of 2004/05[3]

Numbers

	Attempted GCSE			*Achieved grades A*-C*			*Final statistics (Thousand) Achieved grades A*-G*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
Any Subject	1,029	1,005	2,034	575	623	1,198	1,001	976	1,977
English/Mathematics	958	932	1,890	158	184	342	858	837	1,695
Mathematics/Science	788	748	1,536	166	138	304	696	631	1,327
English/Mathematics/Science	763	726	1,489	117	115	232	668	611	1,279
English/Mathematics/Science and a Modern Language	170	238	408	35	57	92	154	214	368
English	975	958	1,933	241	352	593	902	906	1,808
Mathematics	1,007	970	1,977	265	240	505	920	880	1,890
Any Science	799	764	1,563	222	175	397	721	675	1,396
Single Award Science	281	230	511	49	24	73	253	197	450
Double Award Science	477	505	982	144	133	277	432	454	886
Physics	36	25	61	23	14	37	36	24	60
Chemistry	36	25	61	21	14	35	35	24	59
Biological Sciences	36	26	62	25	18	43	36	24	60
Any Design & Technology	587	421	1,008	140	167	307	520	381	901
D & T: Food Technology	42	137	179	9	56	65	35	128	163
D & T: Graphic Products	191	63	254	29	24	53	154	54	208
D & T: Resistant Materials	328	133	461	95	50	145	297	116	413
Information Technology[5]	88	48	136	18	10	28	66	40	106
Business Studies	104	72	176	44	25	69	87	67	154
Geography	212	147	359	48	48	96	182	131	313
History	124	116	240	39	61	100	106	114	220
Humanities	77	105	182	20	30	50	60	94	154
Social Studies	39	114	153	19	31	50	37	94	131
Music	63	81	146	11	25	36	50	76	126
Any Modern Language	229	306	535	120	159	279	220	294	514
French	94	187	281	32	81	113	90	182	272
German	18	22	40	8	12	20	18	22	40
Spanish	43	59	102	18	36	54	42	57	99
Other Modern Languages	98	78	176	76	60	136	94	72	166
Art and Design	279	316	595	145	192	337	274	306	580
English Literature	702	722	1,424	222	314	536	622	687	1,309
Drama	117	165	282	52	78	130	107	153	260
Media/Film/TV	84	84	168	26	33	59	73	63	136
Physical Education	332	163	495	101	47	148	325	163	488
Religious Studies	30	66	96	10	28	38	26	60	86

[1] For each subject only one attempt is counted—that which achieved the highest grade.
[2] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the 2004/05 academic year.
[3] Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[4] Includes all other combined syllabus of which Design and Technology is the major part.
[5] Also includes Computer Studies, Information Systems and any combined syllabus of which Information Technology is the major part.

The following table shows the GNVQ attempts and achievements of pupils in academies by subject.

GNVQ attempts and achievements of pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in academies, by subject by the end of 2004/05[2] Revised statistics

	Attempted full intermediate GNVQ			*Achieved full intermediate GNVQ*		
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
All subjects	520	501	1,021	355	374	729
Art and Design	[3]	[3]	10	[3]	[3]	10
Business	32	53	85	20	42	62
Health and Social Care	0	0	0	0	0	0

GNVQ attempts and achievements of pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in academies, by subject by the end of 2004/05[2] Revised statistics

	Attempted full intermediate GNVQ			Achieved full intermediate GNVQ		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Leisure and Tourism	9	13	22	9	11	20
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality and Catering	[3]	[3]	11	[3]	[3]	10
Science	188	180	368	110	117	227
Engineering	16	0	16	0	0	0
Information Technology	271	229	500	212	180	392
Media: Communication and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land and Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts	[3]	[3]	9	[3]	[3]	8

	Attempted full foundation GNVQ			Achieved full foundation GNVQ		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
All subjects	16	21	37	8	8	16
Art and Design	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Social Care	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure and Tourism	[3]	[3]	4	[3]	[3]	[3]
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality and Catering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science	[3]	[3]	12	[3]	[3]	9
Engineering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	12	9	21	5	0	5
Media: Communication and Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land and Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in the 2004/05 academic year.
[2] Includes attempts and achievement by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Figures are suppressed due to small numbers.

Equivalent figures for each individual academy can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students went to university from a *(a)* state comprehensive school, *(b)* state grammar school, *(c)* state secondary modern school, *(d)* other state secondary school, *(e)* further education college, *(f)* state sixth form college and *(g)* independent school or college in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [145891]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

Applicants from England accepted to full-time undergraduate courses in the UK

	Year of entry			
Previous school type	2003	2004	2005	2006
Comprehensive	62,818	63,749	70,454	70,529
Grammar	10,632	11,127	12,056	11,558
Other maintained[1]	18,510	18,948	20,740	19,435
FE/HE college	65,893	65,931	68,228	79,105
Sixth form college	33,347	33,792	37,971	37,597
Independent school	27,688	28,303	28,765	27,754
Other	2,888	3,080	3,433	5,090
Unknown	55,104	52,149	60,151	38,161
Total	276,930	277,079	301,798	289,229

[1] Includes "Other maintained" and "Sixth Form Centres". The information published by UCAS does not identify secondary modern schools separately.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Higher Education: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from West Lancashire were allocated a university place in each year since 1997. [144820]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Entrants[1, 2] to undergraduate courses from West Lancashire parliamentary constituency, UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year	Number
1997/98	745
1998/99	845
1999/2000	910
2000/01	855
2001/02	910
2002/03	905
2003/04	1,010
2004/05	930
2005/06	1,035

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Position at 1 December each year.
[3] Excludes the Open university.
Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The figures are based on students enrolled at 1 December in each year because these are the only figures available on a comparable basis in each year since 1997.

Languages: China

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many higher education institutions have offered degrees in Chinese; and what the total number of students in each of the last 10 years has been. [145886]

Bill Rammell: The latest information available from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) website shows that there are 23 higher education institutions in the United Kingdom offering courses in Chinese studies for the 2007 year of entry. UCAS only hold data on full-time undergraduate courses.

The latest information on the number of students enrolled on courses coded as Chinese studies is shown in the following table. Comparable figures for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

Number of students enrolled on Chinese studies courses[1] by Level of study UK higher education institutions academic years 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Level of study		
	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Total
1996/97	30	620	650
1997/98	30	600	630
1998/99	35	595	630
1999/2000	40	565	600
2000/01	40	535	575
2001/02	55	560	615
2002/03[2]	120	740	860
200/04[2]	155	780	935
2004/05[2]	175	935	1,110
2005/06[2]	210	1,130	1,340

[1] The figures stated for those studying Chinese courses is likely to be an undercount. Some institutions which offer Chinese courses do so as part of a wider foreign languages course and the detail of the individual languages studied are not recorded on the HESA student record.
[2] In 2002/03 the coding frame and the method of recording subject of study was changed. The Joint Academic Classification Scheme (JACS) was introduced which although similar to the previous coding frame, is not directly comparable. Additionally, figures are on a full person equivalent basis whereby a student is apportioned between each of their subjects of study.
Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Higher Education Funding Council for England has allocated to universities for the teaching of Chinese in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [145887]

Bill Rammell: We have increased funding for Higher Education by over 20 per cent. in real terms since we took office and now spend over £10 billion a year. However, the vast majority of funding is not ringfenced by either my Department or HEFCE for particular subjects but is demand led and allocated on the basis of student numbers. On that basis, about £3 million each year is made available to support students studying Chinese language and linguistics. However, we have consistently recognised that Chinese is an important subject and HEFCE has allocated an additional £1 million a year as special funding to support Chinese between 1999-2000 and 2003-04 as a special initiative for Chinese studies to ensure that we maintain capacity in this subject.

Literacy: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many maintained mainstream schools *(a)* less than 50 per cent. of pupils, *(b)* less than 40 per cent. of pupils, *(c)* less than 30 per cent. of pupils and *(d)* less than 25 per cent. of pupils do not achieve the expected level in English at key stage 3. [133651]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be derived from the achievement and attainment tables which are available in the Library.

Mandarin: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* availability and *(b)* take-up was of GCSE Mandarin in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [138321]

Jim Knight: The information requested for part *(a)* is not held centrally. The information to part *(b)* is available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mothers: Finance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the Learning and Skills Council £4 million budget for young mothers to be available from 1 April 2007 has been allocated to the Wirral. [138439]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Learning and Skills Council has made £4 million available nationally, in the financial year 2007-08 to support a range of programmes for young parents and young parents to be. A total of £124,688 has been allocated to the Merseyside area. This has not been further allocated to local authority level.

Nurseries: Non-domestic Rates

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the amount that private, voluntary and independent nurseries in England pay in *(a)* business rates, *(b)* VAT and *(c)* Ofsted inspection fees per year. [138621]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

Nursery Schools: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery school places were available in West Lancashire in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [144825]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency area. Data are provided for 2006 only because data are not available at constituency level for 1997.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four year olds in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency area, position in January 2006

	3-year-olds			4-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]	Total 3-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]	Total 3-year-olds
2006	380	480	850	850	180	1,000

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency for 1996-97 are not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information for 2007 about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds for Lancashire local authority area.

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four year olds in Lancashire local authority area, position in January 2007

	3 year olds			4 year olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[4]	Total 3-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[5]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[6]	Total 4-year-olds
2007	3,700	7,200	10,800	9,100	2,600	11,700

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website at www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Nursery Schools: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has undertaken an assessment of the impact of regulations applying to the provision of nursery education which have been introduced since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [145305]

Beverley Hughes: Successive Codes of Practice on the free early education entitlement for three and four-year-olds have had a substantial impact on the lives of our youngest children. 96 per cent. of three and four-year-olds now take up at least some early education, with the substantial developmental benefits that provides.

We consulted widely on the 2006 Code of Practice—with the responses showing both support for the free entitlement and for its extension to 38 weeks. We adjusted our proposals in response to comments about aspects of the extension which some nursery providers would have found difficult to meet.

Part-Time Education: North East Region

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many part-time students registered for higher education courses at *(a)* Newcastle College, *(b)* Northumbria University and *(c)* Newcastle University in each year from 1997 to 2005. [145036]

Bill Rammell: The number of students enrolled on part-time higher education courses for each year since 1997/98 is given in the table.

Number of students enrolled on part-time higher education courses at Newcastle College, the University of Northumbria at Newcastle and the University of Newcastle, academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

	Institution		
Academic year	*Newcastle College*[1]	*The University of Northumbria at Newcastle*[2]	*The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*[2]
1997/98	n/a	5,675	4,015
1998/99	n/a	6,970	3,850
1999/2000	n/a	6,750	4,340
2000/01	n/a	6,325	4,215
2001/02	n/a	6,475	4,215
2002/03	655	7,135	2,530
2003/04	930	6,940	1,540
2004/05	915	6,435	1,290
2005/06	970	7,025	1,280

n/a = Figures given relating to study in English Further Education colleges are based upon the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The FE ILR was collated for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are presented from that time.

[1] Learning and Skills Council (LSC) figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 November (Source).

[2] Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 of December (Source).

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the costs of the Pathways study have been to date; what further expenditure on the study is planned; and how many staff in his Department are working on the study. [145720]

Jim Knight: There are two current studies funded by the Department which are looking at aspects of pathways. These are:

1. Predicting Adult Life Outcomes from earlier signals: Modelling pathways through childhood. The total cost of this project is £20,450. No further expenditure is planned.

2. Adoption initiative: Pathways to permanence for children of Black, Asian and Mixed parentage: Dilemmas, Decision Making and Outcomes. The total cost of this is £341,952. No further expenditure is planned.

Both these projects have been contracted to external academic research bodies. One member of staff is involved in managing these external projects.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 856-8W, on pre-school education: finance, how much funding each local authority provided to nursery providers in each of the last two years. [140659]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. Local authorities—in consultation with their School Forums—are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances. It is a matter for each local authority to determine the levels of funding for providers in their area. The Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding consultation which closed on 1 June set out a number of proposals for changes to the way the early years funding system operates. Ministers expect to announce final decisions over the summer, in the light of responses to the consultation.

Primary Education: Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what schemes exist for unpaid volunteers or other unpaid helpers to provide support or one-to-one help in primary schools. [144531]

Jim Knight: We encourage schools to draw on the services of parents and other volunteers through strong links with parents, the local community and others. We know that schools receive a vast amount of help through parents giving up their time. We do not collect data from schools about this sort of activity. The specific schemes or organisations which we support are:

Volunteer Reading Help, a charity which places trained volunteers in primary schools to help young disadvantaged children with reading.

The Workers Educational Association (WEA) makes a valuable contribution to training parents who left school with few or no qualifications as classroom volunteers.

The National Literacy Trust (which delivers the National Reading Campaign) provides a list of voluntary organisations who work with schools.

Private Education: Charities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of his submission to the Charity Commission on review of public benefit concerning independent schools. [145140]

Jim Knight: The Charity Commission will be publishing a summary of responses to their public consultation on draft public benefit guidance later this year. We will place a copy of DfES's response in the House Library when the consultation response is published.

Private Finance Initiative: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value. [145870]

Jim Knight: Information on schools private finance initiative contracts, including balance sheet treatment and unitary charges, is included in HM Treasury's PFI Signed Projects List, which is available through:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats

This is a working document containing information on current signed PFI projects. It is updated on a 6-monthly basis to reflect the updates HM Treasury receives from Departments at Budget and pre-Budget report.

Pupils: Hay Fever

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of changing the timings of *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations, with particular reference to the effect on seasonal allergic rhinitis sufferers. [145431]

Jim Knight: It is the responsibility of an independent body, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), to timetable GCSE and A-level examinations on behalf of the awarding bodies. The JCQ seeks to take into account a range of different conditions and circumstances which can affect performance in examinations. Under present arrangements, candidates who suffer from hay fever on the day of an examination may apply via their examination centre for "special consideration", which can result in an increase in their marks by up to 2 per cent., depending on the circumstances.

Pupils: Hyperactivity

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he has taken to provide students affected by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder with an education programme which meets their particular needs; [144246]

(2) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health on research and best practices in the treatment of young people affected by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [144247]

Mr. Dhanda: Schools must have regard to the SEN Code of Practice (2001). The Code recognises four main areas of Special Educational Need (SEN). These include (i) cognition and learning (ii) behavioural, emotional and social development (iii) communication and interaction and (iv) sensory and/or physical needs. Pupils with a range of difficulties including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) fall within the overall descriptor of BESD.

The monitoring of individual children's progress is set out in the Code through the graduated approach. This is a model of action and intervention in schools and early years education settings to help children who have SEN. The approach recognises that there is a continuum of special educational needs and that, where necessary, increasing specialist expertise should be brought to bear on the difficulties that a child may be experiencing. The graduated approach is applicable to the identification, assessment and provision for children and young people with BESD. Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Code explain in detail this approach and the additional support that may be needed at School Action and School Action Plus.

Although research and best practice in the medical treatment of children with ADHD falls to the Department of Health (DH), Ministers from DfES and DH meet regularly to discuss how outcomes for the physical, mental and emotional health of children and young people can be improved.

Pupils: Injuries

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schoolchildren were injured whilst at work in England in each of the last four years. [145485]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

For each of the years 2002 to 2006 HSE has received the following number of RIDDOR reports of accidents to persons aged 1-15 years, described as being an employee or trainee.

	Number
2002/03	17
2003/04	29
2004/05	23
2005/06	34
Total	103

For each of the years 2002 to 2006 HSE has received the following number of RIDDOR reports of accidents to persons aged 1-17 years, described as being on work experience.

	Number
2002/03	11
2003/04	33

	Number
2004/05	36
2005/06	42
Total	122

HSE is aware of the rising number of reportable incidents and is undertaking work to establish the possible causes for the increase before deciding on the appropriate action to take.

Qualifications

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* mechanisms and *(b)* data are provided to employers for the purposes of checking the authenticity of academic qualifications claimed by job applicants. [145906]

Phil Hope: The National Database of Accredited Qualifications (www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk) is a free tool that any individual can use to check that a qualification is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Only awarding bodies that have been recognised by QCA are able to submit qualifications for accreditation. Should an employer wish to check the authenticity of a certificate and qualification in respect of a specific individual, the usual process is to send a copy of the certificate to the issuing awarding body which will then confirm that the certificate was issued to the person named on the certificate and the name matches the certificate number.

As for HE qualifications, employers would be expected to check with the HE institution concerned.

Research: Israel

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many UK-Israel research collaborations are supported by *(a)* EU and *(b)* European Science Foundation funding; and what the value is of such funding. [144579]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission is responsible for providing member states with data on the implementation of the Framework Programme. The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) covered the years 2003 to 2007. The latest FP6 data provided by the European Commission cover all projects where a contract has been signed up to July 2006. The data provided by the Commission show that there were 262 signed contracts where there were participants from both the UK and Israel. These contracts have been awarded funding of €1.5 billion.

The European Science Foundation (ESF) UK member organisations are the seven Research Councils and the British Academy. ESF does not provide information on research collaborations to members; this is not part of their reporting procedures.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers and teaching assistants have been assaulted in each region of England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [142144]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of assaults towards staff in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include

'physical assault against an adult'.

Local authority level tables (including Government office region) showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason are available in the House Library.

Schools: Ethnic Groups

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of ethnic minority pupils attend *(a)* Catholic schools, *(b)* Church of England schools, *(c)* maintained comprehensive schools without a religious character and *(d)* grammar schools in (i) Birmingham, (ii) Solihull, (iii) West Midlands and (iv) England. [140540]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Maintained secondary schools: Number and percentage of minority[1,2] ethnic pupils by religious character of school: January 2007[3] England

	Birmingham local authority			*Solihull local authority*		
	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	*Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]*	*All pupils[6]*	*Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]*	*Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]*	*All pupils[6]*
No religious character	29,970	53.0	56,540	1,600	13.5	11,840
Church of England	390	90.7	430	0	0.0	0
Roman Catholic	2,800	33.6	8,330	410	17.4	2,360
Methodist	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Christian	2,370	54.4	4,360	0	0.0	0
Jewish	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Muslim	280	100.0	280	0	0.0	0
Sikh	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Other	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Total	35,810	51.2	69,950	2,010	14.2	14,190

	West Midlands Government Office region			England		
	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]
No religious character	63,690	20.5	310,940	467,740	17.1	2,743,350
Church of England	3,350	18.7	17,920	31,450	18.3	172,160
Roman Catholic	6,700	19.1	35,130	71,710	22.6	317,970
Methodist	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Christian	2,370	54.4	4,360	5,130	18.4	27,810
Jewish	0	0.0	0	1,050	17.3	6,080
Muslim	280	100.0	280	1,180	98.5	1,200
Sikh	0	0.0	0	500	100.0	500
Other	0	0.0	0	290	98.6	290
Total	76,390	20.7	368,630	579,050	17.7	3,269,370

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to ethnic group.
[3] Provisional. 4 Includes all pupils classified by ethnic group except those classified as white British.
[5] Ethnic minority pupils expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[6] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.
Source:
School Census

Maintained secondary schools: Number and percentage of minority ethnic pupils by intake type of school [1,2]: January[3]

	Birmingham local authority			Solihull local authority		
	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]
Comprehensive[7]	31,110	51.4	60,550	2,010	14.2	14,190
Selective (Grammar)	3,970	55.1	7,210	0	0.0	0
Selective (Secondary Modern)	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Selective (Technical)	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Selective (Religion)	730	33.3	2,190	0	0.0	0
Total	35,810	51.2	69,950	2,010	14.2	14,190

	West Midlands Government Office Region			England		
	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]	Number of minority ethnic pupils[4]	Percentage of minority ethnic pupils[5]	All pupils[6]
Comprehensive[7]	68,460	20.2	339,080	499,850	17.4	2,874,580
Selective (Grammar)	5,600	37.3	15,010	31,800	20.3	156,810
Selective (Secondary Modern)	320	7.1	4,490	15,390	12.7	121,180
Selective (Technical)	0	0.0	0	130	4.7	2,720
Selective (Religion)	2,010	20.0	10,060	31,880	27.9	114,070
Total	76,390	20.7	368,630	579,050	17.7	3,269,370

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to ethnic group.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Includes all pupils classified by ethnic group except those classified as white British
[5] Ethnic minority pupils expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[6] All pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[7] Includes one comprehensive school which reported intake type as grammar
Source:
School Census

Schools: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the numbers of *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools who have installed Wi-Fi technology; what his policy is on the use of such equipment; and what research he has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the potential effects on the health of school children arising from the installation of this technology. [145062]

Jim Knight: Becta lead on this area for the Department and advise that in their ICT equipment in schools 2005 survey (published March 2006) of the 556 schools surveyed, 128 primary schools (41.03 per cent.) and 154 secondary schools (70.97 per cent.) made use of wireless networking.

Becta recommends that while secure wireless networks can complement an institution's wired network, they should not replace it. Advice and guidance for schools on wireless networking is available through their website.

Becta has been in contact with the Health Protection Agency (HPA)—the Government agency responsible for health and safety—to obtain the latest guidance on health issues relating to wireless technology. The HPA reports that there is no consistent evidence of health effects from RF exposures below guideline levels. Becta

therefore believes that there is no reason why schools and others should not use wi-fi equipment to benefit from the flexibility these technologies can provide.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the reliability of the formula used to calculate the contextual value added measure of a school's performance; and if he will make a statement; [143125]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with teaching unions on the calculation of the contextual valued added measure of schools' performance. [143127]

Jim Knight: The formula used to calculate the contextual value added (CVA) measures was developed over a number of years, initially taking advice from leading academics in the field and then refining the models through close consultation with schools, local authorities and teacher unions. All supported the introduction of CVA and we continue to maintain close links with schools, local authorities and their unions on the use of CVA and how the model might be further refined. Many of the changes made to the model through the development years were brought about thanks to the contribution of schools and their representative bodies.

This has produced a formula which estimates the contribution each school makes to its pupils' attainment, taking account of each pupil's starting point and a broad range of contextual factors which are shown to affect progress and for which consistent national data are available. The formula is widely accepted by schools as providing a fairer basis for comparison of schools than either raw statistics of attainment or un-contextualised value added.

The formula for each key stage is calculated each year based on the actual attainment of the entire national cohort of over half a million pupils, and has been found to be very stable year-on-year in terms of the effects of particular factors such as deprivation, which indicates its robustness. A paper produced by the DfES for the OECD Project on the Development of Value-Added Models in Education Systems discusses some of the more technical aspects of the model and addresses both the advantages and disadvantages of the chosen approach. This is available on the Department's Research and Statistics website.

Development work continues each year to refine the models, including implementing any necessary changes arising from the evaluation of each pilot and taking account of improved sources of data as they become available.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new statements were issued for children with special educational needs of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of school age children they constituted in each case. [141223]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Specialised Diplomas: Expenditure

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what total expenditure has been allocated by his Department to the development of the Diploma; and how much funding has been given to the sector skills councils to develop the Diploma content. [145872]

Phil Hope: Up to the end of the 2007-08 financial year, the Department has allocated £22.85 million towards the development of the new 14-19 Diploma qualifications. Of this figure, £14.425 million has been allocated specifically to sector skills councils to support the work of Diploma Development Partnerships across all 14 Diploma lines.

In addition, through existing delivery budgets, we have allocated a total of over £297 million up to the end of the 2007-08 financial year to support preparations for the delivery of Diplomas from September 2008.

St. Thomas of Canterbury School: Playing Fields

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement and consent given by his Department to St. Thomas of Canterbury School in Merrow, Guildford to sell part of its playing fields; [145892]

(2) what conditions were attached to the permission given by his Department to St. Thomas of Canterbury School in Merrow, Guildford to sell part of its playing fields; and whether any minimum *(a)* sale price and *(b)* capital value was specified. [145893]

Jim Knight: In May 2007 the governing body of St. Thomas of Canterbury Primary School received the Secretary of State's consent to dispose of part of its detached playing field. Approval was given on condition that the land was sold for a price of not less than £1.2 million and all of the sale proceeds were to be used to improve the school's remaining outdoor and indoor sports facilities. A further condition of approval was that a community user of the playing field subject to the application was guaranteed access to the school's remaining improved sports facilities. Officials are sending to the hon. Member a copy of the letter of consent.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the total receipts from university tuition fees in each year from 2008-09 to 2030-31; and if he will make a statement. [144123]

Bill Rammell: The expected receipts from university tuition fees were given in the November 2005 statement to the commons and repeated as follows. These were based on the income from UK and EU full-time undergraduate students studying at English Higher Education institutions; where we estimated that once

all cohorts of students were paying variables fees, the total fee income would equate to £2,250 million in 2006-07 prices.

Figure 1: Estimated tuition fee income for higher education providers (once all students are paying variable fees)

	£ million 2006-07 fee income[1]
Fee income from standard fee of £1,200	900
Additional fee income from variable fees[2]	1,350
Total	2,250

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest £50 million and are in 2006-07 prices.
[2] Based on 91 per cent. of universities charging the full £3,000.

The latest estimates of tuition fee income for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are shown in Figure 2 as follows, along with the proportion that is extra income from variable fees. Figures relate to fees paid by full-time UK and EU domiciled students studying in English institutions. These estimates differ slightly to those quoted in figure 1; mostly in that they are not steady-state (i.e. assume that there are still students in 2008/09 paying standard rather than variable fees) and relate to assumptions on average fees charged in later years.

Figure 2: Estimated tuition fee income in current prices (figures rounded to the nearest £100 million)[1,2,3,4]

		Fee income	£ million
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Fee income from standard fee	1,100	1,200	1,200
Additional fee income from variable fees	1,300	1,600	1,800
Total	2,400	2,800	3,000

[1] All figures cover full-time undergraduates, but also PGCE students and part-time initial teacher training students.
[2] Tuition fee income from un-regulated fees (i.e. fees charged to overseas and part-time students) is not included.
[3] Figures are based on estimates of the relative proportion of new students paying variable fees; and continuing students paying fixed fees.
[4] The figures include over £300 million a year to be recycled as non-repayable bursaries for students.

Estimates beyond 2010-11 have not yet been produced.

Teachers: Mesothelioma

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many teachers have been diagnosed with mesothelioma in each of the last 10 years; [142289]

(2) if he will issue updated guidance for schools on treatment of asbestos in school buildings; [142290]

(3) if he will require all asbestos to be removed from school buildings during refurbishment projects undertaken as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [142291]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have or collect any data on teachers who are diagnosed with any specific medical condition. However numbers of deaths from mesothelioma and asbestosis are published annually by HSE's Epidemiology and Medical Statistics Unit. They have also published an analysis of deaths from these diseases, between 1980 and 2000, which identifies teaching as a profession.

We recently updated our Department's guidance on the management of asbestos in schools[1]. In addition, the HSE also recently updated its notice to governors, proprietors and head teachers of schools in England and Wales about the duty to manage the risk from asbestos in school buildings[2].

There is no requirement to remove asbestos from buildings during refurbishment. The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations, as amended in 2004, do not require the automatic removal of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's). If the material is in good condition and will not be disturbed then it does not pose a health risk and it is usually safer to leave it in place and manage it. If the material is damaged or is likely to be disturbed and it cannot be repaired or protected, it should be removed.

Anybody undertaking any sort of work on ACM's must be competent and adequately trained. Licensed contractors must be used for most work with asbestos insulation, asbestos insulating board and asbestos coatings.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/asbestos

[2] www.hse.gov.uk/schools

Teachers: Pay

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average salary of teachers in Blackpool North and Fleetwood was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [143973]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

The following table shows the average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers employed in Lancashire local authority maintained schools and in England and Wales in March 1997 and 2005, the latest information available.

Average salaries of full-time regular qualified teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in Lancashire local authority and England and Wales, March 1997 and 2005[1]

	Lancashire local authority (£)	England and Wales (£)
1997	22,690	22,900
2005[1]	32,740	32,930

[1] Provisional estimates.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Training: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many workers in Coventry have received additional training under the Engineering Workforce Development scheme. [144026]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Following extensive inquiries with a wide range of Coventry and Regional partners including Advantage West Midlands, the Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council, Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions, Coventry City Council and

the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership, it has not been possible to identify the Engineering Workforce Development scheme. If my hon. Friend wishes to write to me separately with more detail about the scheme, I will endeavour to provide the information requested.

Truancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many schools more than *(a)* 20 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. of pupils took unauthorised absence in the last school year for which figures are available. [133244]

Jim Knight: In 2006, 7,777 schools had more than 20 per cent. of their pupils take an unauthorised absence. 4,882 schools had more than 30 per cent. of pupils taken an unauthorised absence, while 1,716 schools had more than 50 per cent. of pupils take an unauthorised absence. These figures are from a total of 23,940 schools.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many unauthorised absences were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Warrington in each year since 1997, broken down by type of institution. [134026]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many unauthorised absences were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in West Lancashire constituency in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school. [143525]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on absence for all parliamentary constituencies has been placed in the Library.

Information on absence in secondary schools, broken down by type of institution is available in the Library for the 2005/06 academic year. It is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000718/index.shtml

Absence data for individual schools are available in the Library in the achievement and attainment tables. These are also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/performancetables/

Vocational Training

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what evidence he collects on the performance of Train to Gain brokers; and what assessment he has made of the satisfaction levels of those using such brokerage services. [142436]

Phil Hope: The Train to Gain broker service is managed and monitored by the LSC on an ongoing basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive has written directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 19 June 2007:

I have been asked by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to respond to questions you posed regarding what evidence is collected on the performance of Train to Gain skills brokers, what assessment has been made of the satisfaction levels of those using such brokerage services, Level 3 Trials and any assessment that has been made in the North West.

Train to Gain: evidence collected on performance and satisfaction levels

The performance of Train to Gain skills brokers against set targets is monitored and reported on a monthly basis. Monthly management information evidence includes employer engagement, employer size, sector data; skills broker referral destinations; learner profile, and employer satisfaction with the service provided by skills brokers. Performance against these targets has been reported each month since April 2006 and the information is used to manage the skills brokerage contractors.

An independent survey of the skills brokerage service has been in place since the launch of Train to Gain in April 2006. The survey measures employers' satisfaction levels with the independence, impartiality and responsiveness of the skills brokerage service The current national satisfaction level with the service provided by skills brokerage organisations is 85.7%.

Train to Gain: Level 3 Trials

The Level 3 Trials have been running in the region since August 2006. In the first six months of operation the Trials did not perform well, with negligible learners on programme. As a consequence an early assessment of the Trials was carried out with providers within the region.

The assessment of the Trials resulted in the Department for Education and Skills and the Minister for Skills agreeing to allow the LSC to amend the policy. This has reduced policy conflicts that existed between mainstream Further Education and the Trials.

The LSC spent the early part of 2007 working with providers and Skills Brokers to both re-contract and communicate the policy changes. The changes are now implemented and the learner numbers in all Trial regions are increasing steadily month on month. Performance is still lower than we had anticipated but monitoring and further research is ongoing to ensure that issues relating to performance are understood.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have *(a)* started and *(b)* completed the Train to Gain programme in each region of England since its inception; and what the targets are for each region. [145141]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive will write directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the per capita cost is of each qualification gained under *(a)* the Train to Gain programme since its inception and *(b)* the Employer Training Pilot programme in each region of England. [145142]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is a major new service that will raise skill levels and the quality of training across England. It commenced in the 20 Learning and Skills Council (LSC) areas covered by the former Employer Training Pilots (ETPs) from April 2006, and reached full coverage across England in August 2006. Full operational capacity will not be reached till the end of 2007-08 from which point we expect it to deliver 175,000 first full Level 2 achievements per year. As at the end of April 2007 over 40,000 employers had engaged with Train to Gain, 154,290 employees had commenced training and 32,800 learners had achieved a first full Level 2 qualification.

Train to Gain offers employers a holistic service. Independent and impartial skills brokers help employers understand and meet their business needs. In some cases this can mean directly helping the employer in upskilling their workforce to gain basic skills and a range of qualifications from basics skills, such as literacy and numeracy to higher education qualifications. Skills Brokers also help employers identify potential sources of public funding, but also any likely contribution from employers, including paid time off for the individual to undertake the training. If the business need goes much wider than LSC funded provision, the Skills Broker will refer the employer to other services such as Jobcentre Plus, Investors in People, and Business Link for more general business advice as well as business to business networks. To date, more than 12,000 such referrals have been made to non training destinations.

It is therefore not possible to calculate a per capita cost per qualification that takes account of this added value of the Train to Gain service. We will, however, continue to develop more accurate methods of determining the gross added value of the service as a whole.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the evidence is for increased employer investment in work force training arising from the Train to Gain programme. [145143]

Phil Hope: Train to Gain is a major new service that will raise skills levels and the quality of training across England. It commenced in 20 Learning and Skills Council (LSC) areas covered by the former employer training pilots (ETPs) from April 2006, and reached full coverage across England in August 2006. Full operational capacity will not be reached until the end of 2007-08. In its first year of operation, it has already engaged more than 40,000 employers with some 70 per cent. of those defined as hard to reach (i.e. not recognised as an Investors in People and no recorded investment in training).

Independent and impartial Skills Brokers work with the employers to identify how skills might help them meet their business goals, including increased productivity. The Skills Brokers also help the employer identify possible sources of public funding available, as well as identifying the need for employer investment, in both funding for training and in paid time off for employees to study for the relevant qualification. Train to Gain continues to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and we already know that 85 per cent. of employers are satisfied with the service they are receiving. While it is too early to measure at a national level, we already know of many employers at regional and local level who have realised the benefits of investing in the skills of their work force and have returned to their Skills Broker for additional advice and guidance.

Train to Gain was developed from the employer training pilots and a full evaluation of those pilots was published in 2006. One of the findings was that 71 per cent. were more convinced that training less skilled employees can benefit the business. A copy of the report has been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to review progress of employer delivery of the skills pledge in 2010 as outlined in the final report of the Leitch review of skills. [145144]

Phil Hope: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs). For those employees who do not already have a full level 2 qualification, the Government will provide funding to help them gain basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as their first full level 2 qualification.

We remain committed to this voluntary approach. However, as recommended by Lord Leitch, in 2010 we will review whether progress on a voluntary basis is sufficient, or if we need to consider at that point whether to introduce a statutory entitlement to work force training in England.

Vocational Training: Expenditure

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the *(a)* Train to Gain, *(b)* 19+ FE and *(c)* 19+ work-based learning budget was spent on (i) first full Level 1, (ii) first full Level 2, (iii) first full Level 3 and (iv) spending outside these categories in the most recent year for which figures are available. [145426]

Phil Hope: We have increased public investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06. Adult education funding will increase by 7 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2007-08, with funding for young people increasing by 13 per cent. over the same period. This means that overall in 2007-08, through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we will invest £11.2 billion, an increase of £716 million compared with 2006-07. This includes the significant investment in Train to Gain to ensure more employers are able to receive the training they need for employees. Train to Gain has yet to complete a first year. It started in April 2006, and reached full coverage across England in August 2006. Train to Gain full operational capacity will be reached at the end of 2007-08. The Train to Gain budget will grow by 62 per cent. to £460 million in 2007-08.

The Department does not hold information on publicly funded post-16 provision at levels requested. Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's chief

executive will reply to the hon. Member with the requested information and will place a copy of his reply in the House Library.

Warrington Collegiate: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding was allocated to Warrington Collegiate in each year since 1997, broken down by funding stream category. [141158]

Bill Rammell: This Government are fully committed to developing a world leading FE system. In 1996-97, Government expenditure for FE capital was nil. In 2007-08, the Government plan to spend just under £500 million on FE capital. In a little over a decade, the total investment by this Government in the FE sector's buildings and facilities will be just over £2 billion.

We have increased revenue funding in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06. In 2007-08, through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), we will invest £11.2 billion, an increase of £716 million compared with 2006-07.

The LSC capital and revenue funding allocations to Warrington Collegiate for each year since 2001, when the LSC was established, are set out in Table 1. Information on allocations prior to 2001-02 is a matter for LSC and Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Table 1: LSC funding allocations to Warrington Collegiate

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
FE: 16-18	—	2,538,489	3,216,000	3,623,812	4,138,886	4,676,780	4,832,393
FE: 19+	—	4,345,011	4,790,000	5,063,000	4,877,459	4,507,113	3,653,868
FE: Adult Learner Support (ALS)	—	1,323,750	1,139,000	1,116,000	1,027,605	1,053,295	1,079,627
Total FE	8,523,900	8,207,250	9,145,000	9,802,812	10,043,950	10,237,188	9,565,888
Apprenticeships	438,780	624,066	618,536	628,829	847,115	1,003,627	1,198,916
Train to Gain	—	—	—	—	—	263,016	420,350
Total LSC Revenue Allocation	8,962,680	8,831,316	9,763,536	10,431,641	10,891,065	11,503,831	11,185,154
Total LSC Capital Allocation	—	—	—	8,100,000	—	—	—

Source:
LSC.

Young People: Death

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many fatalities there were of children aged *(a)* zero to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years where the cause of death occurred in (i) the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or similar space where sporting activities occur, (v) public parks and (vi) other places in each year since 1997. [144277]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your four recent questions about deaths of children listed here:

How many deaths there have been following recorded injuries of children aged (a) 0 to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years which have taken place (i) in the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or other place where sporting activities occur, (v) in public parks and (vi) in other places in each year since 1997; (144259)

how many deaths there have been following recorded injuries of children aged (a) 0 to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; (144262)

how many fatalities there were of children aged (a) zero to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; (144278)

how many fatalities there were of children aged (a) zero to four, (b) five to eight, (c) nine to 12 and (d) 13 to 16 years where the cause of death occurred in (i) the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or similar space where sporting activities occur, (v) public parks and (vi) other places in each year since 1997. (144277)

Not all of the information you requested exists. The Office for National Statistics does not collect information on recorded injuries but does collect data on all registered deaths, including those with an underlying cause of injury, categorised by coroner's verdict—accident, intentional self-harm, homicide, and injury of undetermined intent. Information on place of occurrence of death is collected at registration for all deaths.

However, information on place of occurrence of the cause of death (i.e. where the person was when they were injured or became ill) is only collected on coroner's certificates of cause of death after inquest for deaths from injury and poisoning with a verdict of accident (including misadventure). The coroner is asked to select one often pre-specified categories of 'place where the accident occurred'.

The place of accident is then coded by ONS according to the revision of the International Classification of Diseases in use at the time (Ninth Revision 'ICD-9' from 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision 'ICD-10' since 2001). 'Home' and 'place of sport or recreation', are specified categories in both revisions, but school and hospital are not. They are subsumed in much larger categories: both are in 'public building' in ICD-10, but hospital was classified in 'resident institution' in ICD-9. Place of occurrence of injury is not coded in the same way for deaths from transport accidents, but the vast majority of these are motor vehicle accidents, and for most the place of accident would be street or highway. We have shown transport accidents separately in attached tables.

The tables below show the number of deaths in children by age group for all deaths, and deaths with a coroner's verdict of accident by place of occurrence of accident, between 1997 and 2005 in England and Wales.

Table 1: Number of deaths in children by age group from all causes and deaths with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] England and Wales, 1997-2005[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All deaths									
0 to four[3]	4,509	4,347	4,326	3,958	3,828	3,678	3,892	3,734	3,760
Five to eight	356	344	316	301	313	285	274	251	230
Nine to 12	381	344	344	342	284	308	306	273	274
13 to 16	625	587	537	502	570	562	506	516	485
Accidental deaths									
0 to four[4]	138	147	141	118	117	104	115	97	88
Five to eight	69	42	60	50	47	46	40	25	32
Nine to 12	100	90	84	83	56	61	49	59	46
13 to 16	198	163	149	160	177	142	140	150	148

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E928 for the years 1997 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-X59, Y40-Y84from 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Includes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life).
[4] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not know for these deaths.

Table 2a: Number of deaths in children by age group with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] by place of occurrence of injury, England and Wales, 1997-2000[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000
At home				
0 to four[3]	70	81	85	68
Five to eight	10	7	10	12
Nine to 12	13	16	11	13
13 to 16	26	24	21	23
Place for recreation and sport[4]				
0 to four[3]	0	0	1	2
Five to eight	5	1	3	0
Nine to 12	3	4	5	1
13 to 16	5	2	3	4
Public building[5]				
0 to four[3]	1	1	0	0
Five to eight	4	2	0	1
Nine to 12	0	1	1	0
13 to 16	1	2	2	1
Other specified and unspecified place[6]				
0 to four[3]	22	21	27	17
Five to eight	9	6	7	9
Nine to 12	13	13	10	14
13 to 16	25	26	14	21
Transport accidents[7]				
0 to four[3]	45	44	28	31
Five to eight	41	26	40	28
Nine to 12	71	56	57	55
13 to 16	141	109	109	111

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E850-E928.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not know for these deaths.
[4] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code .0.
[5] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code .4 and includes public park and playground, including school playground.
[6] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-9 code .6.
[7] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E800-E848.

Table 2b: Number of deaths in children by age group with a coroner's verdict of accident[1] by place of occurrence of injury, England and Wales, 2001-05[2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
At home					
0 to four[3]	66	59	69	55	48
Five to eight	11	15	8	6	9
Nine to 12	9	13	16	9	12
13 to 16	25	24	19	18	12
Sports and athletics area[4]					
0 to four[3]	0	1	0	0	0
Five to eight	1	0	0	0	0
Nine to 12	1	3	0	0	0
13 to 16	5	0	2	1	0
School, other institution and public administrative area[5]					
0 to four[3]	0	1	0	1	1
Five to eight	0	0	1	0	0
Nine to 12	1	0	0	0	1
13 to 16	2	0	2	0	1
Other specified and unspecified place[6]					
0 to four[3]	15	15	23	19	14
Five to eight	2	6	10	5	6
Nine to 12	5	7	4	9	7
13 to 16	24	19	20	14	33
Transport accidents[7]					
0 to four[3]	36	28	23	22	25
Five to eight	33	25	21	14	17
Nine to 12	40	38	29	41	26
13 to 16	121	99	97	117	102

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes WOO-X59, Y40-Y84.
[2] Figures are for occurrences of death in each calendar year.
[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life) as, since 1986, a single underlying cause of death is not know for these deaths.
[4] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code . 0.
[5] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code .3 and excludes public park and playground.
[6] Selected using 4th digit of ICD-10 code .2.
[7] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-V99.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 June 2007

HEALTH

Social Care

15. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will bring forward proposals on the future funding of social care. [145324]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Proposals to cover the period 2008-11 will be brought in as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn. The Government recognise the need to address the longer-term funding issues, too, as identified in last year's pre-Budget report, but the timing has not yet been established.

NHS Trust Deficits

17. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of NHS trusts which will be in deficit at the end of 2007-08. [145326]

Andy Burnham: We have received financial plans for 2007-08 and these are now subject to final validation and sign-off with the national health service. At this stage, the figures are encouraging, with only around 6 per cent. of organisations forecasting a year end deficit, compared with 22 per cent. in 2006-07, as reported in our provisional outturn in the Department's NHS Financial Performance in Quarter Four 2006-07 report.

The NHS continues to build on the good financial health achieved in 2006-07, and enters 2007-08 in its strongest financial position for many years.

Access to NHS Treatment

18. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of differences in access to NHS treatment in different parts of the country; and if she will make a statement. [145327]

Andy Burnham: It is for primary care trusts to assess local health needs and commission services to meet them. The Department supports primary care trusts by funding them on the basis of their assessment of their population's health needs. Waiting lists are at a record low and falling. Guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is promoting much more consistent access to cost-effective drugs and other specific interventions.

NHS Staff Morale

19. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of staff morale in the NHS. [145328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Healthcare Commission Annual Staff Survey measures a range of things that contribute to the level of staff morale such as job satisfaction and work-life balance. The 2006 survey results are being analysed with national health service trade union representatives in the National Social Partnership Forum.

Cottage Hospitals

20. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of cottage hospitals. [145329]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to delivering more health services in community settings—community or cottage hospitals are key to this. We are making available £750 million capital funding for the development of community hospitals and services.

Smoking Ban

21. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with public bodies on the introduction of the smoking ban in England. [145330]

Caroline Flint: The Department has had discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, both public and private, to support them to understand the requirements of the new smokefree law and to build compliance ahead of 1 July 2007. The Department has also provided support, advice and resources to local councils and port health authorities to assist with preparations for them to undertake their role as enforcement authorities for the new smokefree law.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has allocated to the advertising of the impending 1 July smoking ban in public places. [145766]

Caroline Flint: To ensure that businesses and members of the public across England are aware of the requirements of the new smokefree law and its implementation on 1 July, the Department is undertaking an extensive communications campaign. The budget for advertising smokefree legislation is £5.8 million.

Research undertaken in early June, almost a month before the law comes into effect, shows that awareness of the new law among the general public stands at 95 per cent. and spontaneous awareness of the implementation date is 83 per cent. Similar research with businesses shows that 96 per cent. are aware of the new law and 93 per cent. spontaneously state that 1 July is the day the law comes into effect. Also, 86 per cent. of businesses feel that enough information has been made available to help them prepare for the new law.

Community Hospital: Malvern

22. **Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make an announcement about a new community hospital in Malvern, Worcestershire. [145331]

Andy Burnham: NHS West Midlands and Worcestershire primary care trust are currently reviewing the continued applicability and robustness of the business case for a new community hospital in Malvern.

Midwives

24. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of midwives needed to ensure delivery of the Government's policy in Maternity Matters. [145333]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2007-08 NHS Operating Framework requires local national health service organisations to undertake a review of their maternity services including an assessment of their work force capacity.

It is important that these decisions are made locally as they know their local needs best and can ensure that services are developed to meet these needs.

Carers

25. **Mr. Malik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has issued for the introduction of emergency respite care for carers in England. [145334]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Next month, we plan to issue guidance on the introduction of emergency short breaks to councils and £25 million will be made available to support implementation of the guidance from October 2007.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 60 were registered as carers in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [146007]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Individuals are not registered as carers nationally. However, the 2001 census indicates that there are 5.2 million carers in England and Wales.

GP Appointments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she provides to GPs on whether more than one condition may be considered at each patient visit. [145332]

Andy Burnham: None. It is for general practitioners to apply their professional and clinical judgment when assessing patients who present.

Blood: CJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007 to question 142988, what the batch numbers were that were provided to NHS trusts, primary care trusts and to the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation. [145747]

Caroline Flint: Details of the implicated batch numbers were provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation who wrote to all Haemophilia centre clinicians so that they could inform patients about their individual risk status. The HPA also provided the batch numbers to national health service trusts and primary care trusts for information.

Each patient was asked to indicate whether or not they wished to know if they had received an implicated batch, and informed according to their wishes. As some patients indicated through their clinicians that they do not wish to be informed, it would be inappropriate to publish full details of batch numbers.

Carbon Monoxide

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 911W to the hon. Member for Dudley North on carbon monoxide, how many of the deaths listed were caused by *(a)* domestic gas appliances and *(b)* other locations and types of appliances. [145799]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of deaths	*Caused by domestic gas (including appliances)*	*Other locations and types of appliances*
1996	1,016	31	985
1997	840	28	812
1998	724	37	687
1999	666	26	640
2000	521	25	496
2001	480	22	458
2002	418	20	398
2003	416	11	405
2004	297	18	279
2005	257	[1]16	197

[1] Provisional.

Community Health Services: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other medically qualified personnel were practising in the public health medicine and community health services specialties in each year since 1997. [137274]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff within the public health medicine and community health services group, England

Number (headcount)

	At 30 September each year									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All medical and dental staff	5,003	4,796	4,404	4,299	3,782	3,388	3,472	3,533	3,385	3,283

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental staff within the public health medicine and community health services group, England

Number (headcount)

	At 30 September each year									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Medical and dental consultant	800	797	804	847	852	779	857	926	927	885
All other medical and dental staff[1]	4,203	3,999	3,600	3,452	2,930	2,609	2,615	2,607	2,458	2,398

Notes:
1. All other medical and dental staff includes qualified clinical staff at the following grades; associate specialist, staff grade, registrar group, senior house officer, house officer, F2, F1, hospital practitioner, clinical assistant, senior dental officer, dental officer, senior clinical medical officer, clinical medical officer, clinical director, assistant clinical direct, dental clinical director, dental assistant, clinical director, other (medical practitioners doing part-time work), other (salaried dental practitioner)
2. Some trusts and primary care trusts (PCT) have included health visitors, school nurses and other non-medically qualified staff in the public health medicine specialty prior to revised definitions being published by the Information Centre in 2005-06. *Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.

The Public Health Medicine and Community Health Services Group includes the following specialties:

Dental public health;

Public health medicine;

Community health services dental; and

Community health services medical.

There has been an increase in the number of consultants in public health working in the national health service of 85 (10 per cent.) between 1997 and 2006.

Over the same period the number of other public health staff numbers has decreased by 1,805 (57 per cent.). This is in part due to changes in the way the data are collected and coded. For example, health visitors, district nurses, general practitioners and other professionals, who are not formally coded as public health staff, perform public health tasks. There has been growth in many of these groups. There is also variation from trust to trust in which exact roles are classed as public health. In addition, the definition of the public health specialty has been more closely defined in recent years resulting in the exclusion of groups of staff such as health visitors and school nurses who some trusts and PCTs previously included as public health staff.

A public health workforce collection was conducted on 28 February 2007 which asked NHS to return information on their public health staff in post on that date. The Information Centre is currently analysing this data with a view to publication in the autumn.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by staff in her Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145294]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has spent the following on credit, procurement and fuel cards in the last three years:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£000 Total*
Credit card	8	0	n/a	8
Procurement card	1,346	3,051	2,715	7,112
Fuel card	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The figures have been extracted from the Department's financial systems and from statements supplied by the bank provider.

Credit cards held by staff ceased to exist from May 2005. These were superseded with Government procurement cards (GPC). Unlike a consumer credit card, which offers consumers extended credit facilities, GPC cards were introduced to consolidate high-occurrence small value purchases, with procurement card invoices to be settled in full at the end of each billing period.

The Department has not held any fuel cards for the period in question.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145938]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Devolution concordat on health and social care: UK Department of Health, Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety" was published in 2001. It governs relations between the Department and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

A copy of this Concordat is available in the Library.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff surveys her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months the Department has conducted one staff survey, in March 2007. Analysis of the results of the survey continues and therefore the final costs are not yet known. We anticipate it to cost similar to the survey in 2006 which cost £23,000.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library copies of her departmental employee surveys for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [145628]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1560W.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds are available to assist the victims of domestic violence to recover from their experiences. [144635]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

This year, the Ministry of Justice has committed £3 million to fund independent domestic violence advisers: trained specialists whose goal is to ensure the safety and recovery of victims of domestic violence.

The Home Office has allocated £2 million to fund the local delivery of support services for victims of domestic violence and their children, and just under £2 million has been made available to local areas for the development of multi-agency risk assessment conferences, which aim to ensure the safety of identified high risk victims, and help them recover from their experiences without fear of repeat victimisation.

Safe housing is integral to victims' recovery, and Support People funding is available to provide housing-related support for victims of domestic violence. In 2005-06, over £59 million was made available through this funding.

The Government also part funds a matrix of helplines which provide support and information to victims of domestic violence, to enable them to access assistance and support to help them recover from domestic violence.

In addition to this, health services have been making significant progress in the early identification of, and intervention with, victims of domestic violence—for example, rolling out making routine inquiries of all pregnant women, and taking forward work on collecting violent crime data (including domestic violence data) through electronic patient records.

Drugs: Guernsey

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will place a copy of the response from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to the recent consultation by the Bailiwick of Guernsey on its draft medicines legislation in the Library; and if she will make a statement on that response; [145993]

(2) if she will invite the Governments of Guernsey and Jersey to attend a meeting with the Health Food Manufacturers' Association to discuss issues relating to the trade in food supplements and unlicensed medicinal products. [145994]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Ministry of Justice have met with the Health Food Manufacturers' Association to discuss issues relating to the trade in food supplements and unlicensed medicinal products via the Channel Islands. Further information has been requested to assist in discussions with the island Governments. There are no plans to invite the governments of Guernsey and Jersey to a meeting with the Health Food Manufacturer's Association.

A copy of the MHRA's response to the consultation by the Bailiwick of Guernsey on its draft medicines legislation has been placed in the Library. The MHRA's response said that the proposed legislation did not implement the Medicines Directive, it offered assistance to the Bailiwick of Guernsey in implementing the directive and asked for the Bailiwicks proposed time scale.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 571W, on general practitioners, what process for managing discussions and negotiations was agreed by the NHS Confederation; what timetable was agreed; and which parties were involved. [144515]

Andy Burnham: This information is contained in news releases and regular updates issued by the NHS Confederation, relevant text copies have been placed in the Library.

The press notice dated July 2001 outlined the initial steps taken to develop the process and identified the need for urgent discussions. The subsequent updates set out the arrangements put in place.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been taken to inform general practitioners of the particular *(a)* medical and *(b)* mental health needs of (i) former and (ii) serving armed forces' personnel; and whether she has a system for monitoring the effectiveness of such communications. [145957]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has embarked on a number of pilots, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and service charities, to improve access to mental health care for ex-servicemen. The health care of serving armed forces is the responsibility of the MOD.

Injuries: Cycling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children who had suffered injuries while cycling were admitted into *(a)* accident and emergency units and *(b)* other hospital services in each of the last three years. [145489]

Caroline Flint: Data on children admitted to hospital as in-patients who had suffered injuries while cycling are shown in the table. Data are shown for all inpatient admissions and for inpatient admissions of those who initially attended accident and emergency (A&E) units. Data are not available centrally on children attending A&E units who are not subsequently admitted as in-patients.

Count of finished in year admission episodes for children aged 0-14 years suffering injuries while cycling shown by all admission methods and admission via A&E, 2003-04 to 2005-06, national health service hospitals, England

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Admission via A&E	5,162	5,216	5,214
Other admission methods	765	712	717
Total admissions	5,927	5,928	5,931

Notes:
1. Data are for International Classification of Diseases version 10 (ICD10) external cause codes V10 to V19, which relate to pedal cyclist injuries.
2. Admission via A&E covers the following admission methods: Emergency—via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider; Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider.
3. A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
4. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

IVF

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in ensuring that primary care trusts follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines on access to IVF treatment. [145757]

Caroline Flint: In welcoming the clinical guideline published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 2004, we advised that the Department would be looking to primary care trusts (PCTs) who provided no in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment to meet a minimum level of one cycle of IVF by April 2005, and to make progress to the full implementation of the guideline in the longer term. This guideline is due to be reviewed in 2008.

The NICE clinical guideline has raised the profile of infertility within the national health service. However, the primary responsibility for implementing NICE guidelines, including the rate of implementation, rests with the NHS at local level. The consideration that PCTs give to this is part of the range of factors that they, in liaison with local health bodies and patient groups, take into account in deciding their policy on the provision of treatment services for their locality. This policy will reflect local health needs and priorities.

The Department is funding the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of fertility services.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government Health Minister on *(a)* plans to create an electronic care record for patients, *(b)* confidentiality matters arising from the proposed system and *(c)* the cost of implementation of the Choose and Book electronic referral system for GPs. [144984]

Caroline Flint: None. Health services in Wales, and the information technology used to support them, including the creation of electronic care records for Welsh patients, are matters for the Welsh Assembly Government. However, officials from the Department and NHS Connecting for Health work closely with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government and Informing Healthcare Wales on a range of matters of common concern.

Mental Health: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Health Minister on a mental health measure for Wales. [145605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have had a discussion with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services, and have received and replied to a letter from her regarding mental health measures for Wales in the last week.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department plans to audit progress in relation to the objectives established in the musculoskeletal services framework. [145848]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will not directly audit progress in relation to the objectives established in the musculoskeletal services framework (MSF) as the purpose of this document is best practice guidance. It is up to local health systems to decide which changes to implement in order to meet the objectives set out in the MSF.

NHS: Non-geographic Numbers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to question 138605, whether national health service organisations using 09 or 087 numbers established before April 2005 are still able to use them. [144976]

Andy Burnham: Regulations came into force in April 2005 which prevented national health service dentists, NHS opticians, general practitioner practices and out of hours providers from establishing new premium rate telephone numbers for patients seeking to contact services. Existing numbers were not affected. Ministers decided not to issue directions to enforce a migration of existing numbers to low-cost alternatives such as 0844 or 0845 in the light of Ofcom's decision to review its numbering system. Ofcom has now created a new country-wide number range 03 for public and not for profit bodies, which are charged to the consumer at the local rate, and has now started allocating numbers using the 03 prefix.

The Department expects decisions on telephone numbers in primary care to be based on what is in the

best interests of patients taking account of the Central Office of Information guidance on cost to the citizen.

NHS trusts and foundation trusts are not affected by the aforementioned regulations.

Service Categories

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1384-5W, on service categories, whether service category 27 is inclusive of *(a)* service category 25 and *(b)* Common Procurement Vocabulary Codes 74511000-4, and from 85000000-9 to 85323000-9, except 85321000-5 and 85322000-2. [145914]

Andy Burnham: Service category 27 is not inclusive of service category 25. Common Procurement Vocabulary Codes 745 11000-4, and from 85000000-9 to 85323000-9, except 85321000-5 and 85322000-2, are not included in Service Category 27.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government has any plans to license tobacco retailers; and if she will make a statement. [145991]

Caroline Flint: The Government considered different ways of further controlling the selling of tobacco products, including positive and negative licensing, and consulted on these options last year. A copy of this consultation document "Consultation on Under-Age Sale of Tobacco", published on 3 July 2006, is available in the Library. In line with the proposal in the consultation, the Government intend to introduce a negative licensing system at the first legislative opportunity. Under this scheme, retailers who repeatedly flout the law on under-age sale of tobacco will be liable to orders prohibiting them from selling tobacco.

Tomography: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients from Wales were referred to *(a)* fixed location positron emission tomography (PET) scanners and *(b)* the mobile PET scanners in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [144181]

(2) how many positron emission tomography scans were procured from private operators in England for NHS patients from Wales in the last 12 months. [144365]

Andy Burnham: These are issues for the National Assembly for Wales.

Voluntary Work: Publicity

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the departmental publication Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme 2007 cost to produce. [145637]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A finalised invoice for the production and distribution of the 2007 Opportunities for Volunteering report has not yet been received by officials at the Department. The initial estimate provided was £6,906.

PRIME MINISTER

Peers

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister if he will request the House of Lords Appointment Commission to publish all recommendations for appointment of non-party political peers and all nominations for peerages made by political parties for peerages since it was established. [145956]

The Prime Minister: As has been the practice of successive Governments, and continued by the House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC), nomination forms for peerages are confidential.

HOLAC publishes a list of the individuals selected for appointment as non-party political peers on its website (www.lordsappointments.gov.uk).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which UK banks the Office of Fair Trading *(a)* is monitoring and *(b)* plans to monitor, with respect to the bank charges levied against individuals who exceed their overdraft limit or where a cheque or direct debit is refused. [146012]

Mr. McCartney: The OFT market study into personal current accounts is being undertaken in consultation with a range of interested parties, including major current account providers and their representatives.

At present the consultation with interested parties remains confidential. This exercise involves collecting and assessing sensitive information and, if the names of the persons involved in an ongoing investigation of this nature were vulnerable to disclosure, this could prejudice the full and frank disclosure of information as part of the investigation, and discourage co-operation with future OFT investigations.

The findings of the study are due to be published by the end of 2007.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to require banks to publicise their methods of calculating the penalty charges levied on customers when overdraft limits are exceeded or cheques or direct debits are returned. [146013]

Mr. McCartney: It will be for the OFT to take or recommend any action in the light of its market study findings, including its investigation into the fairness of current account charges under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations (UTCCRs).

Construction: Environment Protection

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to incentivise the use of environmentally friendly practices by the home construction industry. [144243]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are working closely with the house building industry to improve the environmental sustainability of how it operates and what it delivers.

The changes already made in the Building Regulations mean that the energy efficiency of new houses has improved by 70 per cent. compared to pre-1990 levels. We have also consulted on further strengthening Building Regulations such that all new homes will be required to be zero carbon from 2016.

In addition the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Stamp Duty exemption that we have announced for new zero carbon homes will encourage the development of highly sustainable housing. We have already consulted on whether to make a rating against the code mandatory from April 2008 and will shortly consult on the detail of how we propose to do this.

Energy Performance Certificates will also be required on all newly constructed homes from 1 January 2008. The production of the certificates will be built in to the Building Regulations completion process, and will give the new owners or occupiers an understanding of the energy efficiency and environmental impact of their new home.

Other initiatives such as the Carbon Challenge and Eco-towns proposals will also encourage innovation and challenge the housebuilding industry to deliver overall improvements in sustainability.

Government are also intending to consult shortly on a new 'Strategy for Sustainable Construction'. The aim of this new initiative will be to set the direction in which government and industry together should be heading to tackle issues affecting the construction sector up to the year 2020 and their ability to respond to the important issue of environmental sustainability.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144932]

Mr. Darling: In each of the last three calendar years the Department undertook the following number of flights to and from overseas destinations and the total cost of these flights was:

	Flight spend (£)	*Number of flights*
2006	3,201,001	3,169
2005	3,066,531	3,877
2004	3,528,407	3,851

The above data includes flights taken by both Ministers and officials in the core DTI and two of its agencies (Patent Office and the Competition Commission). The Department and its travel agent do not separately record details of flights taken by Ministers and flights taken by civil servants.

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* seminars were held by the Smith Institute as part of the Government's Review of Maternity Pay and Leave and Parental Leave; and which (i) individuals attended and (ii) companies were represented at each. [144964]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As far as our records show, the Smith Institute held no meetings or seminars on behalf of DTI during the Government's Review of Maternity Leave and Pay and Parental Leave.

Energy: Meters

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research has been undertaken *(a)* by and *(b)* on behalf of his Department into the use of smart meters in non-residential properties. [145075]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* Between 2004 and 2006, the Carbon Trust, a Government-funded organisation, conducted field trials of advanced metering with 580 businesses. The results of the trials are available at www.carbontrust.co.uk

Foreign Workers: EC Nationals

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment has been made of whether British workers have been displaced from jobs by incoming workers from new EU accession states. [143307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Research published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) last year showed that there is no discernible statistical evidence that migration from the EU accession states has increased claimant unemployment. This is in line with international evidence on the impacts of migration which finds little discernible evidence of adverse effects on wages or employment of native workers.

The DWP research report can be accessed here:

http://www.workandpensions.gov.uk/asd/asd5/wp29.pdf

Fuel Poverty

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the fifth annual report on the UK fuel poverty strategy. [144829]

Mr. Darling: The Government expect to publish the Fifth Annual Report on the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy in summer 2007.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the level of UK Export Credit Guarantee Department export credit guarantees to Iran was in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [139612]

Mr. Darling: In the financial year from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, ECGD supported two export contracts with an aggregate exposure of £4.97 million. To date, no support has been provided for any exports in the financial year beginning 1 April 2007.

The current level of ECGD exposure to Iran is approximately £290 million.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the last domestic grant award was made under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [136969]

Malcolm Wicks: The last domestic Low Carbon Buildings Programme grant award was made on 1 March 2007. Since then, it was announced in the Budget 2007 that a further £6 million would be made available to the household stream taking the total available to householders to more than £18 million.

Taking this into account, we took the opportunity to suspend the scheme so that we could work with stakeholders on re-structuring the household stream to ensure we made best use of the monies available and delivered against the programmes objectives.

The scheme was re-launched on 29 May 2007 with a number of changes, including the removal of the monthly cap, a pre-requisite for planning approval in the application process and a shorter grant claim period. We hope changes to the programme will allow us to reach a wider audience. We will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments.

More information on the restructured programme is available on the programme's website:

http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Packaging

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the impact of misleading and copycat packaging on (i) shoppers and (ii) UK manufacturers of consumer goods. [140405]

Mr. McCartney: The Department has not commissioned any research on the impact of misleading and copycat packaging on shoppers and UK manufacturers of consumer goods.

Research: Tax Allowances

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had on the potential to amend his Department's guidelines on the conditions to be satisfied for research and development tax relief to include expenditure on the design process. [145905]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions on this subject. The DTIs guidelines on the Meaning of R and D for Tax Purposes, 5 March 2004 already allow for expenditure on the design process to be claimed "when achieving design objectives requires the resolution of scientific or technological uncertainty within a project." The Government consider that the economic case has not yet been made for incentivising design more generally, outside the scope of R and D, even if the practical problems of definition and state aids could be overcome.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 June 2007

TREASURY

Defence: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the current HM Treasury financial delegation to the Ministry of Defence. [145204]

Mr. Timms: I have today placed a copy of the current HM Treasury delegations to the Ministry of Defence in the Library, as requested.

Hometrack

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings representatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have had with (i) the company Hometrack and (ii) its representatives in the last 24 months; [145230]

(2) what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency have received from the company Hometrack in the last 24 months. [145231]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with and receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and representations.

National Insurance: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer in each year from 2007-08 to 2011-12 of implementing in full the advice of the Government Actuary's Department on the level of national insurance rebates for contracted out pensions from 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144116]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

National insurance rebates are paid from the National Insurance Fund. The effect on national insurance revenues that would arise from implementing in full the Government Actuary's advice for rebates from 6 April 2007 is broadly neutral over the longer term for schemes contracted out on a defined contribution basis. For schemes contracted out on a defined benefit basis, it would mean increasing estimated total expenditure on rebates between 2007-08 to 2011-12 by around 9.4 per cent.

Smith Institute: Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 476W, on the Smith Institute: publications, how many publications are held in the Chancellor's private office. [144499]

John Healey: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 283W.

Unemployed

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working age workless households with couples without dependent children there were in each year since 1992. [145881]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about workless couple households without dependent children. (145881)

The attached table gives the information requested. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), for the three month period ending in May of each year from 1992 to 2006.

A household is defined as a single person, or a group of people living at the same address who have the address as their only main residence and either share one main meal a day or share the living accommodation (or both). A workless working-age couple household is one that is headed by a married/cohabiting couple and that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment. Couple households without dependent children may include non-dependent children, and/or members of other family units, whose economic status affects the combined economic status of the household (i.e. whether it is classified as workless or not).

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Workless working-age couple households without dependent children[1,2,3,4]—United Kingdom, spring (March-May) 1992 to 2006, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousand	*Percentage[5]*
1992	738	11.6
1993	813	12.9
1994	794	12.5
1995	811	13.0
1996	770	12.8
1997	791	12.9
1998	111	12.6
1999	764	12.4
2000	771	12.3
2001	736	11.8
2002	727	11.6
2003	697	11.1
2004	700	11.2
2005	716	11.4
2006	691	11.1

[1] A workless couple household is a household that is headed by a married/cohabiting couple and that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment. Couple households without dependent children may include non-dependent children, and/or members of other family units, whose economic status affects the combined economic status of the household (i.e. whether it is classified as workless or not).
[2] Working-age includes men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[3] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[4] Estimates have been adjusted for households with unknown economic activity status.
[5] Workless working-age couple households without dependent children as a percentage of all working-age couple households without dependent children.
Note:
As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Valuation Office: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1513W, on Valuation Office: manpower, what the reasons are for the change in staff numbers between 2000 and 2007. [145344]

Dawn Primarolo: Staff numbers have varied between 2000 and 2007 for operational and efficiency reasons. The VOA staffing policy is to predict, where possible, peaks and troughs of work and to plan for staff numbers accordingly.

JUSTICE

Barristers: Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which barristers received the highest sums from the Legal Services Commission in respect of legal aid cases for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal work in each of the last three years; and how much each was paid in each year. [145472]

Vera Baird: The information requested for 2004-05 has been published on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website, at the following location:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/rights/dca/inforeleased/050914.htm.

The figures relating to the highest paid criminal and civil barristers for 2005-06 has also been published on the Ministry's website, at the following location:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/foi-highpaidbarristers.htm.

Information regarding which barristers received the highest sums from the Legal Services Commission in respect of legal aid cases for civil and criminal work in 2006-07 will be published once the data have been collated and verified.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff in her Department and its predecessor received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [143102]

Vera Baird: The Ministry of Justice employs staff previously employed on several sets of different terms and conditions, each with their own arrangements for bonus payments. The information provided in the following table relates to former DCA Senior Civil Service (SCS) and grades below SCS. It excludes magistrates courts staff who became civil servants within this Department in April 2005 and whose terms and conditions do not normally allow for payment of performance or special bonuses. It also excludes those staff in the Tribunals Service and who joined former DCA on 1 April 2006 for whom information is not currently available.

Information for Her Majesty's Prison Service (below SCS) is provided.

Senior civil service bonuses received during the past five years for staff on former DCA terms and conditions

Paid in calendar year	*Staff receiving bonuses*	*Proportion receiving bonuses (Percentage)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest award (£)*
2003	43	46	170,557	6,500
2004	69	72	268,900	11,200
2005	105	84	537,687	12,690
2006	118	79	821,750	17,500
2007[1]	—	—	—	—

[1] No bonuses have yet been paid to members of the SCS during 2007

Special bonuses received during the past five years for staff on former DCA terms and conditions (not SCS)

Paid in financial year	*Staff receiving bonuses*	*Proportion receiving bonuses (Percentage)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest award (£)*
2002-03	995	7	253,258	—
2003-04	447	3.1	343,347	—
2004-05	1,649	11.6	412,898	5,304
2005-06	1,809	12.8	487,753	5,000

Notes:
1. Data show payments for each financial year from 2002-03. Comprehensive information is not yet available for 2006-07.
2. Data covering largest award are not available prior to 2004 when the current recognition and reward scheme was launched.
3. Proportions refer to the number of staff eligible to be awarded special bonuses under their terms and conditions (i.e. these exclude former Magistrates Courts Service Staff).

Performance bonuses awarded during the past five years to staff on former DCA terms and conditions (not SCS)

Paid in calendar year	*Staff receiving bonuses*	*Proportion receiving bonuses (Percentage)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest award (£)*
2003	1,131	9.27	302,030	725
2004	1,430	9	572,000	400
2005	1,881	13.3	752,400	400
2006	1,995	14.1	798,000	400
2007	1,848	13.2	739,200	400

Notes:
1. Data referring to Proportion of staff receiving bonuses refer only to staff on relevant terms and conditions (i.e. only include former DCA and Court Service Staff but exclude staff on Magistrates Courts terms and conditions).
2. Prior to 2003 performance bonuses in former LCD were linked to grade—from 2004 a flat rate was applied.

HM Prison Service became an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

Information on the number and proportion of staff receiving special bonuses, the total amount of bonuses awarded and the largest payment in each year within the public sector Prison Service is contained in the following table:

Public sector prison service special bonuses recorded 2003-04 to June 2007

Paid in financial year	Staff receiving bonuses	Proportion receiving bonuses (Percentage)	Total amount awarded (£)	Largest award (£)
2002-03	1,268	3	463,449	4,000
2003-04	1,983	4	740,443	4,000
2004-05	3,375	7	868,594	5,000
2005-06	3,004	6	983,273	15,802
2006-07	2,432	5	873,141	5,000
April-June 07	518	1	250,453	20,000

Details of staff who joined the Ministry of Justice from the Home Office are currently being collated. Therefore it has not been possible to identify Ministry of Justice staff on former Home Office terms (including from the National Offender Management Service) who received bonuses under their previous schemes within the available timescales.

Domestic Violence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what funds are available to assist the victims of domestic violence in escaping from abusive situations. [144636]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Domestic violence is a cross-Government priority led by the Inter-Ministerial Group for Domestic Violence. The group comprises Ministers from nine Government Departments and the three devolved Administrations.

The budgets outlined as follows contribute towards the delivery of the National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence which focuses on a range of key work objectives from early intervention and prevention through to developing a coordinated community response to tackling domestic violence.

Communities and Local Government provide a part of the funding that assists victims of domestic violence to escape abusive situations.

For 2003-06 a total of £32.1 million capital was invested in refuge provision in England (£15.7 million through the Housing Corporation and £16.4 million from the Homelessness Strategy and Support Directorate in Communities and Local Government). 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built.

In 2005-06, £59 million of Supporting People funding was used to provide housing related support to women at risk of domestic violence.

We continued to fund UKRefugesonline (£100,000 2007-08), a UK wide database of domestic violence services delivered in partnership by Women's Aid and Refuge which supports the national 24 hour free phone domestic violence helpline.

In addition my Department has allocated £47.2 million to local authorities to help them tackle and prevent homelessness in their area for 2007-08. They may choose to use a proportion of this money to fund Sanctuary Schemes.

Government provide other funding to help support victims of domestic violence. In 2006-07 the Home Office allocated £6 million to tackle domestic violence:

£3 million to support and improve local delivery on domestic violence for victims of domestic violence and their children

£1 million to expand the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme

£1 million for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

£1 million to continue to fund national domestic violence services, for example the matrix of help lines.

In 2007-08 Ministry of Justice/Her Majesty's Court Service provided a further £3 million for the expansion of the network of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers that support the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to change the planning laws so that Network Rail has the same requirements to seek planning permission from local communities when erecting GSM-R communication masts as commercial mobile telephone operators. [145190]

Yvette Cooper: There are no current plans to change the permitted development rights for railway undertakers to erect communication masts.

Affordable Homes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest estimate is of the average sale price of an affordable home produced in each of the areas participating in the design for manufacture competition. [111939]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Milton Keynes North-East (Mr. Lancaster) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W.

In this answer I set out precise details for one of the sites in the competition that is one of the first to reach the stage of having completed homes available. On this site, Renny Lodge, we expect people will be able to purchase a 30 per cent. equity stake in a two bedroom home available under Homebuy shared ownership arrangements for between £42,000 and £46,800. The homes available through the First Time Buyers Initiative will typically be available at equity stakes from 50 per cent. starting at around £71,500 for a one bedroom flat.

The other nine sites are at different stages of construction and are spread around the country. The prices of the units for sale will reflect the land value, the local market at the time they go on sale and the equity share as well as the construction cost. However, all sites will include a proportion of affordable housing. This includes social rent and different kinds of shared ownership. We expect that an equity stake in a home, through either shared equity or shared ownership arrangements, will be available on every site

other than the one in Hastings for a cost of £60,000 to £70,000. On the Hastings site all of the 15 units will be for affordable rent.

Arm's Length Management Organisations: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the funding arrangements will be for arm's length management organisations after the Decent Homes Standard period has passed in 2010; and if she will make a statement. [145537]

Yvette Cooper: Arm's length management organisations (ALMOs) secure their funding through a management fee from the local authority. The resources available to the local authority flow from the HRA subsidy system, its capital receipts and any prudential borrowing it takes on. This funding arrangement will remain after the Decent Homes programme is complete.

Association of Home Information Providers: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government have provided to the Association of Home Information Providers. [145136]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has not provided any funding to the Association of Home Information Pack Providers and has no plans to do so.

Community Relations: Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess *(a)* the contribution of bingo clubs to community cohesion and *(b)* the impact on communities of the closure of bingo clubs. [139604]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have no plans to assess the contribution of bingo clubs to community cohesion or the impact on communities of the closure of bingo clubs.

However, we recognise the important role that bingo halls play in communities around the country. As a Government we are keen to continue to support an industry which provides so much enjoyment to millions of players each week, and which is an important source of employment.

It should also be noted that the Gambling Act 2005 already introduces a range of measures designed to support the bingo industry and other sectors of the gambling industry and I know that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is keen to continue to work closely with the industry to see what more can be done to help bingo.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W, on the Valuation Office, (1) how many properties in each local authority billing area in England are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency as having the property attribute of *(a)* one bathroom and *(b)* two or more bathrooms; [124428]

(2) how many domestic dwellings in England are recorded by the Agency as having the property attribute of *(a)* one parking space, *(b)* two parking spaces, *(c)* three parking spaces and *(d)* four or more parking spaces; [124429]

(3) how many domestic dwellings in England are recorded by the Agency as having the property attribute of *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms and *(d)* four or more bedrooms. [124430]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model *(a)* uses and *(b)* holds data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation. [143463]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual domestic dwellings *(a)* have had their property records updated or amended by the Valuation Office Agency using information from Rightmove since the contract was signed and *(b)* had their records so updated or amended in the last year for which figures are available. [143468]

Mr. Woolas: This information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Councillors: Data Protection

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the requirements councillors have to register under the Data Protection Act 1998 when acting in their capacity as a representative of the residents of their ward. [143466]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has issued no guidance of the sort described. The Information Commissioner has issued a guidance note aimed at elected and prospective members of local authorities, about how the Act applies to them.

The note is available on the Commissioner's website at:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_applicatiou/advice_elected_and_prospective_members_local_authorities.pdf.pdf

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff surveys her Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145254]

Angela E. Smith: During the last 12 months, the Department has completed the first of four quarterly staff surveys at a total cost, to date, of £42,770.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's target is for the number of *(a)* homes with an excellent building regulations energy efficiency rating and *(b)* zero-carbon homes to be built in each year in England. [145535]

Angela E. Smith: Building Regulations set minimum standards for energy efficiency. Changes we have already made to Building Regulations mean that the energy efficiency of new houses has improved by 70 per cent. compared to pre-1990 levels. We have also consulted on proposals to further strengthen Building Regulations over the next decade such that all new homes will be required to be zero carbon in terms of their net emissions over the course of a year from 2016.

Homes built with Government funding are taking the lead here. All new Government funding for homes built by registered landlords and other developers, for example through the Housing Corporation, will now make it a condition that they achieve a 3-star rating in the Code for Sustainable Homes—25 per cent. better than current Building Regulations.

We expect that changes to the Building Regulations, the Code for Sustainable Homes, the carbon challenge and the stamp duty relief for new zero carbon homes will all encourage the development of highly energy efficient and zero carbon homes. We do not have targets of the type referred to but we will be monitoring progress carefully.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to be in a position to introduce a Single Equalities Bill. [141109]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have given a commitment to introduce a Single Equality Act during the lifetime of this Parliament. Proposals for a Single Equality Bill will be published for public consultation, shortly. The Discrimination Law Review was published on the 12 June 2007.

European Regional Development Fund

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she was first notified by the European Commission of the prospect of European Regional Development Fund payments being suspended; on what grounds the payments are being suspended; what form this notification took; what action she has taken in response; and if she will make a statement. [135790]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* Officials from the European Commission informed us orally and wrote to the United Kingdom in November 2006 indicating an intention to advise the Commission to hold back the reimbursement of expenditure by the Government on the ERDF 2000-06 programmes in England. In particular, the European Commission wanted us to carry out more physical on-site checking of projects to ensure compliance with particular EU budget criteria. Formal notification was received on 11 April 2007. Action to increase the level of on-site checks began June last year in addition to strengthened management of the processes involved. A robust action plan has been in place for some time and we have made significant progress which has meant that four of the nine regions were not included in the Commission's formal decision. Further work is under way with the Commission to meet their requirements.

Fire Prevention: Tourism

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to fire authorities on the need for fire risk assessments in *(a)* single unit and *(b)* multiple unit self-catering properties for tourists. [145894]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has issued 11 guides dealing with a range of different types of premises. The guides are intended to assist both fire and rescue authorities and the person responsible in the interpretation and application of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Guide No. 3 deals with sleeping accommodation and includes advice on the need for fire safety risk assessments for both single and multiple unit properties. The guides are freely available on the Department's website: www.communities.gov.uk.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what actions her Department has taken to ensure the consistent interpretation and enforcement by fire authorities of fire risk assessments undertaken in respect of self-catering tourist providers; and if she will make a statement. [145895]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has issued 11 guides dealing with a range of different types of premises. The guides are intended to assist both fire and rescue authorities and the person responsible for a premises to establish what fire precautions may be necessary for a particular case. Guide No 3 deals with sleeping accommodation and includes advice on fire safety risk assessment for self-catering tourist accommodation. The guides are freely available on the Department's website at www.communities.gov.uk.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1529W, on home information packs, when the copy of the concession agreement will be placed in the Library. [143454]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of the concession agreement has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings her Department's special advisers had with the Association of Home Information Providers in the last 12 months. [145183]

Yvette Cooper: Advisers met with the Association of Home Information Pack Providers once on 22 August 2006.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is being allocated to local authority trading standards officers to enforce the home information pack regulations. [145521]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have allocated significant additional resources through the local government settlement for local authority trading standards officers to meet the statutory duty to enforce home information packs.

Home Information Packs: Vetting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated time period is for an energy inspector *(a)* to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check and *(b)* to be accredited. [140860]

Yvette Cooper: A fully completed application for a criminal records check for a domestic energy assessor is currently being processed within seven to 10 working days by Disclosure Scotland.

It is the trained assessor's responsibility to ensure that all required documentation is provided to the accreditation scheme they have applied to. Due to this, the process varies in duration. Required documentation includes: certificate of qualification from awarding body, completed criminal records check, and proof of suitable operating insurance.

Hometrack

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* representations her Department has received from and *(b)* meetings her Department has held with Hometrack in the last 24 months. [140870]

Yvette Cooper: We have regular discussions with all key stakeholders about home information pack development and implementation including Hometrack. Officials have received consultation representations from Hometrack. Officials also met with Hometrack in June 2005, July and September 2006.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department and its predecessor have made to the company Hometrack since 2002. [143480]

Yvette Cooper: Since 2002, neither Communities and Local Government nor its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, has made any payments to Hometrack.

Hounslow Borough Council: Members

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations Ministers in her Department have made to the London borough of Hounslow on its relationships with its local Members of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [135633]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* No representations by Ministers from this Department have so far been made to the London borough of Hounslow about its relationship with local Members of Parliament.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of domestic dwellings in England have four or more bedrooms. [145134]

Yvette Cooper: The most reliable estimates are in terms of numbers of households not dwellings. In 2005-06, an estimated 18 per cent. of the 21 million households in England lived in dwellings with four or more bedrooms.

Source: Survey of English Housing.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the Government's target is for the number of new domestic dwellings to be built in each year in England; [145523]

(2) what the Government's target is for the number of new homes to be built in each year under its Sustainable Communities programme. [145524]

Yvette Cooper: The Sustainable Communities Plan, launched in 2003, set out plans to increase housing delivery across London and the wider south east in the period to 2016 to 1.1 million in total, from previous plans for 900,000. In 2005, the Government set a target for 200,000 new homes a year by 2016.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been built in each year under the Sustainable Communities Plan since its inception. [145525]

Yvette Cooper: Since the Sustainable Communities Plan was announced in 2003, net additions to the housing stock in England have been as follows:

	Net additions
2003-04	154,800
2004-05	167,900
2005-06	185,200

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings were completed in England in each year since 1996-97. [145526]

Yvette Cooper: The number of new domestic dwellings completed in England in each year since 1996-97 has been tabulated as follows.

House building: permanent dwellings completed, England

Financial year	*Houses*
1996-97	146,246
1997-98	149,555
1998-99	140,708
1999-2000	142,046
2000-01	133,255
2001-02	129,866
2002-03	137,739
2003-04	143,958
2004-05	155,893
2005-06	163,398
2006-07	167,691

Sources:
P2m returns from local authorities, returns from National Housebuilding Council (NHBC)

The number of domestic dwellings completed in England is also shown on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/53/Table232_id1156053.xls

Housing: Empty Property

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local councils have brought into use empty private sector properties under the Housing Act 2004. [145067]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities have a range of powers to bring empty properties back into use. The provision in the Housing Act for Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) is just one of a range of measures and in many areas is used to encourage landlords to take action on a voluntary basis. Since the commencement of the Housing Act 2004 in April 2007, three interim EDMOs have received authorisation (Norwich, Peterborough and South Oxfordshire).

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to regularise the definition of empty homes for the purposes of comparative council performance in respect of the Housing Act 2004. [145069]

Yvette Cooper: We have no plans to make any changes to the Housing Act 2004 in respect of the Empty Dwelling Management Orders provisions.

Housing: Females

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on the priority to be given to the provision of appropriate housing for *(a)* women and *(b)* women with children who have (i) suffered domestic violence and (ii) who have been trafficked. [135276]

Yvette Cooper: Local housing authorities must allocate housing accommodation in accordance with part 6 of the Housing Act 1996. Among other things, this requires authorities to publish a scheme for determining their priorities, and defining the procedures to be followed, in allocating housing. The scheme must be framed so that reasonable preference for an allocation is given to certain groups of applicant, but it is for individual authorities to decide on the priorities to be given to people within these groups. The reasonable preference groups are based on housing need and include people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds (including grounds relating to a disability) and people owed a homelessness duty. The scheme may also be framed so that additional preference is given to people within the reasonable preference categories who have urgent housing need. The Department has issued statutory guidance to local housing authorities on how they should discharge their functions under part 6. This gives examples of people with urgent housing needs to whom housing authorities should consider giving additional preference including those owed a homelessness duty as a result of domestic violence.

Under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the 1996 Act), local housing authorities must secure that suitable accommodation is available for housing applicants who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and who fall within a priority need group. Accommodation must be secured until a settled home becomes available. The priority need groups include people whose household includes a dependant child or a pregnant woman and, in 2002, the Government extended the priority need groups to include, among others, people who are vulnerable as a result of leaving their home because of violence or threats of violence likely to be carried out. Jointly with the Secretaries of State for Education and Skills and for Health, the Secretary of State has issued statutory guidance to local authorities which they must have regard to when exercising their homelessness functions. The guidance reminds authorities that, under the legislation, a person is homeless if it is not reasonable for them to continue to live in their home and it would not be reasonable for someone to continue to live in their home if that was likely to lead to violence against them or against a member of their family. The guidance also encourages authorities to offer people who have experienced domestic violence a range of accommodation and support options, including the option of remaining in their home with additional security measures provided under a sanctuary scheme.

The Government have signed and ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It has also recently signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This will build on our strategy to combat human trafficking by providing minimum standards of protection and victim support, whilst also providing a framework for enhanced provision.

Details on how implementation will be taken forward are currently being developed. These will involve close co-operation with non-governmental organisations, law enforcement agencies and other

Government Departments. Progress will be monitored by the Inter-Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking of which Communities and Local Government's Deputy Minister for Women and Equality is a member.

The London-based POPPY Project, run through "Eaves Housing for Women", was launched in 2003 and provides a highly regarded combination of safe accommodation and support for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, which meets Council of Europe Convention requirements. Additionally, as a result of Operation Pentameter there are now a number of independently funded organisations (Salvation Army, CHASTE, the Medaille Trust), who also provide accommodation.

The Government are currently considering a pilot scheme to test the level and type of support required for victims of forced labour trafficking.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre was launched on 3 October 2006, the first of its kind in Europe. This is becoming a centre of excellence for dealing with human trafficking and will promote the expansion of victim support services. The Government also published the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking on 23 March. This aims to strike the right balance between protection and assistance for all victims of trafficking, and prevention and enforcement activity to crack down on criminals.

Through its recently published Gender Equality Scheme, the Department has also initiated a number of actions aimed at supporting those women who are victims of domestic violence or who have been trafficked. These include co-ordinating and joining up Government actions on violence against women, and monitoring the impact of changes in local government funding on locally delivered support for vulnerable women. Communities England will also ensure that gender issues are taken into account in exercising functions delivering local strategies for regeneration, housing growth and affordable housing.

Housing: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding the Government provided to each local authority in England for (i) housing and (ii) regeneration purposes in the last year for which figures are available. [143668]

Mr. Woolas: Capital funding for local authority housing is provided through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system in the form of supported capital expenditure (SCE) and the major repairs allowance (MRA). SCE is the level of borrowing for capital purposes that is supported by the Government through the HRA subsidy. This value is based on the Regional Housing Boards' allocations. MRA represents the estimated long-term average amount of capital spending required to maintain a local authority's housing stock in current condition. The capital funding includes an element for regeneration but that is combined with the decent homes programme in the private sector. There is also an element of non-HRA funding for local authorities.

Revenue funding for local authority housing is provided in the form of HRA Subsidy and Formula Grant. HRA subsidy refers to the entitlement local authorities receive from Government to support their housing programs. 2005-06 is the latest year for which audited figure are available. Housing is one of the services supported by formula grant. Formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant, i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. For this reason, and because of the method of calculation, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for a particular service. Tables displaying the 2005-06 HRA subsidy and 2005-06 capital funding for each local authority have been placed in the Library of the House.

For regeneration purposes, there is no local authority wise breakdown available. The information is compiled on a program-specific basis. Departmental funding for regeneration projects in 2005-06 is tabled as follows.

Regeneration programmes: departmental funding spent on regeneration projects in 2005-06

Programme	*Revenue*	*£ million Capital*
Coalfields funding (Enterprise Fund and Regeneration Trust)	10.715	8.500
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	6.651	—
Design Awards	0.052	—
English Partnerships (including Commission for the New Towns)[1]	-51.014	539.195
European Regional Development Fund	51.242	175.527
Groundwork & National Urban Forestry Unit	3.698	10.352
Housing Market Renewal Fund	0.911	302.542
Lea Valley Regional Park	—	0.458
Mersey Basin	0.520	—
New Deal for Communities	168.260	100.333
New Ventures Fund	76.558	1.031
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	525.000	—
Other Growth Areas	8.013	70.793
Regional Development Agencies (including London Development Agency)	545.632	941.082
Special Grants Programme	2.783	—
Thames Gateway	12.880	149.005
Green Flags	0.356	—
Liveability Performance	1.394	0.523
Academy for Sustainable Communities (formerly Urban Design Skills)	2.282	—

[1] Negative spend against English Partnerships is due to profit on sale of land exceeding revenue spend.

Housing: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing in each London local authority was *(a)* units of social rented housing, *(b)* private rented housing and *(c)* owner occupier housing in (i) 1986, (ii) 1996 and (iii) 2006. [144924]

Yvette Cooper: Information reported by local authorities on the proportions of all dwellings that are 'social for rent', private (owner occupied and rented) and other public sector (e.g. school caretakers' houses) is shown in the following table.

Proportions of dwellings by social, private or "other public" in London by borough, 1986, 1996 and 2006

Percentage

	1986			1996			2006		
	Social	Private	Other public sector	Social	Private	Other public sector	Social	Private	Other public sector
Barking and Dagenham	55	45	1	42	58	0	33	67	0
Barnet	17	80	3	14	84	1	13	86	0
Bexley	16	80	4	13	87	0	13	87	0
Brent	30	70	0	24	74	2	22	76	2
Bromley	17	83	0	14	86	0	13	87	0
Camden	47	53	0	40	59	1	36	64	0
City of London	48	51	2	19	70	11	13	85	3
Croydon	18	82	0	17	83	0	17	83	0
Ealing	23	77	0	19	80	0	19	81	0
Enfield	20	79	1	16	83	0	16	84	0
Greenwich	46	53	2	41	57	2	35	64	1
Hackney	70	29	0	60	40	0	48	52	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	40	60	0	35	65	0	32	67	1
Haringey	36	64	0	30	70	0	28	72	0
Harrow	12	87	1	10	89	0	10	89	0
Havering	20	80	0	16	84	0	14	86	0
Hillingdon	20	77	3	17	80	3	16	83	1
Hounslow	29	70	1	25	74	1	21	79	0
Islington	65	33	2	59	40	1	45	55	0
Kensington and Chelsea	26	73	0	24	76	0	23	77	0
Kingston upon Thames	14	85	1	12	87	1	11	89	0
Lambeth	52	46	2	48	52	0	40	60	0
Lewisham	49	51	0	40	60	0	32	68	1
Merton	20	79	1	16	84	0	14	86	0
Newham	42	58	0	39	61	0	30	70	0
Redbridge	14	85	1	10	89	0	10	90	0
Richmond upon Thames	16	83	0	13	87	0	12	88	0
Southwark	73	26	1	59	40	0	47	53	0
Sutton	20	79	1	17	83	0	14	86	0
Tower Hamlets	86	13	1	61	37	2	41	58	0
Waltham Forest	26	73	1	21	76	3	22	78	0
Wandsworth	41	59	0	25	75	0	21	78	0
Westminster	32	68	1	25	74	1	23	77	0

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix from Local Authorities and Regulatory Statistical Return from Registered Social Landlords

Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding was allocated to build affordable housing in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; how much she plans to allocate in 2007-08; and how many affordable homes (i) were built in financial years 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) she estimates will be built in financial year 2007-08; [130118]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of building 50,000 social homes in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08; and if she will make a statement; [130120]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of social homes that will be completed in 2006-07. [130121]

Yvette Cooper: Expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in 2005-06 totalled £1.6 billion and for the two years 2006 to 2008 we allocated a further £3.9 billion, of which the Housing Corporation spent £1.9 billion in 2006-07.

In 2005-06 over 45,400 affordable homes were provided, with 36,386 of these being provided through Housing Corporation's AHP. Provisional figures for 2006-07 indicate that over 44,000 affordable homes

were provided, of which around 38,000 were through Housing Corporation's AHP. A further 56,000 affordable homes are planned for 2007-08, of which over 47,000 will be provided though the Housing Corporation's funding.

Provisional figures for 2006-07 show that over 25,000 social rented homes were provided of which 22,000 were through the Housing Corporation's AHP.

We have made no estimates for the cost of building 50,000 social rented homes in 2006-07 and 2007-08. We set the Housing Corporation targets to provide 21,000 social rented homes in 2006-07 and 28,000 in 2007-08. The latter homes will contribute towards our target of providing 30,000 social rented homes in 2007-08.

Of the Housing Corporation budget of £3.9 billion for 2006-08 it is estimated that £2.8 billion will be spent on providing social rented homes. Future investment will be subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 on which we have already stated that we intend to make the provision of social rented homes a priority.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Work and Pensions on the Hills report; and if she will make a statement. [145066]

Yvette Cooper: Professor John Hills' Review "End and Means: The future roles of social housing in England" raised concerns about high levels of worklessness among households living in social housing.

Ministers and officials from Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions have held a number of discussions on this issue. We are working closely together to explore ways in which we can address worklessness and how social housing can act as a platform for social and economic mobility.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1731W, on housing: valuation, whether *(a)* greenhouses and *(b)* sheds are classified as outbuildings for the purposes of dwellinghouse code 14. [145483]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a permanent greenhouse is considered by the Valuation Office Agency when establishing the capital value of a domestic dwelling during a valuation. [145520]

Mr. Woolas: It depends how much it is worth.

Housing: Wycombe

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty properties designated for key workers were recorded in Wycombe constituency in each of the most recent three years for which figures are available. [145454]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The Government offer housing assistance to key workers under the Key Worker Living (KWL) scheme in areas experiencing severe recruitment and retention difficulties. Key Worker Living funding is divided between Open Market HomeBuy (equity loans to purchase properties on the open market) and new build products such as New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership of newly built homes) and intermediate rent (newly built homes where the rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords).

Since April 2006 we no longer fund specific key worker only new build schemes. Instead key workers access our New Build HomeBuy and intermediate rent programmes as a priority group alongside other priorities such as social tenants. Any key worker specific schemes yet to complete will have been funded under old shared ownership programmes.

Since the launch of Key Worker Living, the Housing Corporation has been collecting data on when the construction of a scheme has been completed and when the final unit has been occupied. The purpose of these data is to actively manage the portfolio of new build properties and take action to prevent long term empty units—and as such allows us to give a breakdown of the current position on empty properties only. As at the end of May 2007 there are no empty Key Worker Living properties designated for key workers only in the Wycombe constituency.

iGather

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department and its agencies have provided for the iGather project; and what plans there are to roll it out across England. [141824]

Ruth Kelly: The iGather project was awarded funding of £300,000 in March 2005. The project has developed a prototype to enable ready access to environmental, employment, housing and other data stored electronically to assist planners to carry out sustainability appraisals effectively and efficiently.

The purpose of a sustainability appraisal, mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of revisions of regional spatial strategies and for new or revised development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.

Further work is being carried out, which will enable the prototype to be fully operational for the South West region by the end of 2007. No decision has yet been made on its further roll out.

Immigration: EC Enlargement

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the likely impact on the number of houses in multiple occupation in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* local authorities in the eastern region of the migration of new EU member state citizens to these areas since 2004; and if she will make a statement. [145306]

Yvette Cooper: The Department recognises the impact of EU migration and, in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), is currently developing a toolkit of good practice guidance for local authorities on issues such as overcrowding in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

The number of HMOs in local authority areas has been collected by the Department through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) since 2001. The following table indicates the number of HMOs in Peterborough since 2004.

Housing strategy statistical data

	Number of HMOs in the City of Peterborough
2003-04	800
2004-05	1,000
2005-06	1,000

The following table indicates the number of HMOs in all local authorities in the eastern region since 2004.

Housing strategy statistical data

Local authority area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Babergh	30	30	30
Basildon	25	40	38
Bedford	450	450	450
Braintree	53	50	50
Breckland	316	468	506
Brentwood	70	50	50
Broadland	400	100	88
Broxbourne	35	63	75
Cambridge	3,717	3,717	3,717
Castle Point	[1]—	8	290
Chelmsford	358	82	91
Colchester	438	164	191
Dacorum	46	36	40
East Cambridgeshire	40	40	40
East Hertfordshire	92	97	96
Epping Forest	4,400	130	250
Fenland	163	300	300
Forest Heath	100	59	150
Great Yarmouth	550	550	550
Harlow	74	79	132
Hertsmere	76	76	76
Huntingdonshire	52	52	52
Ipswich	687	953	958
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	216	300	315
Luton	812	884	821
Maldon	11	20	7
Mid Bedfordshire	23	14	8
Mid Suffolk	55	42	53
North Hertfordshire	61	60	60
North Norfolk	373	373	57
Norwich	1,500	1500	1900
Peterborough	800	1000	1000
Rochford	40	40	12
South Bedfordshire	164	[1]—	[1]—
South Cambridgeshire	473	284	284
South Norfolk	78	29	589
Southend-on-Sea	158	159	150
St. Albans	326	305	333
St. Edmundsbury	76	78	86
Stevenage	320	320	86
Suffolk Coastal	414	321	339
Tendring	242	233	227
Three Rivers	48	56	17
Thurrock	163	256	179
Uttlesford	25	0	50
Watford	217	216	216
Waveney	30	25	40
Welwyn Hatfield	1,400	1,400	1,400

[1] No return.

The Department does not currently hold data for 2006-07.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Termination of Employment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she will have the power to remove planning commissioners on the proposed infrastructure planning commission from their post before the end of their term of office for reasons other than misconduct. [145151]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraphs 5.56 to 5.61 of the White Paper, Planning for a Sustainable Future (cm 7120), set out the Government's proposals as to the personnel of the infrastructure planning commission. It is intended that members of the commission will have fixed tenure for periods of between five and eight years. The Secretary of State will have the power to remove a person from office as a member of the commission if she is satisfied that the person is unable, unwilling or unfit to perform the duties of the office. We do not propose that members could be removed because of the decisions they took.

Local Authorities: Disabled

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have appointed a disability access officer. [145004]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* Appointment of disability access officers is a decision for each local authority. Research to provide this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Local Authorities: Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority owned homes were sold to *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* private landlords in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [144639]

Yvette Cooper: The following table gives details of London boroughs who have sold their housing stock to the registered social landlord sector through large-scale voluntary transfer in the last 10 years. We could

provide figures for small-scale voluntary only at disproportionate cost. We do not have any data on trickle transfers to registered social landlords; nor do we have data on how many local authority homes have been sold to private landlords.

Dwellings transferred from local authorities to the registered social landlord sector in London 1997-2007

LA name	*Dwellings*
Total 1997	0
LB Lambeth	1,196
LB Bexley	8,215
LB Merton	1,018
LB Tower Hamlets	4,283
LB Hackney	951
LB Brent	1,481
Total 1998	17,144
LB Hackney	2,745
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	668
LB Enfield	1,194
LB Greenwich	1,280
LB Lambeth	4,777
LB Islington	1,386
Total 1999	12,050
LB Hackney	2,336
LB Tower Hamlets	1,551
LB Richmond	7,139
Total 2000	11,026
LB Tower Hamlets	1,859
Total 2001	1,859
LB Waltham Forest	2,242
LB Hackney	954
LB Harrow	518
Total 2002	3,714
LB Tower Hamlets	78
Total 2004	78
LB Islington	615
LB Lambeth	630
LB Tower Hamlets	3,111
Total 2005	4,356
LB Tower Hamlets	2,920
LB Lambeth	1,412
Total 2006	4,332
LB Lambeth	1,031
LB Sutton	524
LB Islington	502
LB Tower Hamlets	51
Total 2007 (to date)	2,108

Local Authorities: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations have a function of inspecting local authorities. [145158]

Mr. Woolas: The Government set out proposals for a new performance management framework for local areas in the White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" (Cm 6939) in October 2006. This will be introduced from 2009.

The Audit Commission (which from April 2008 will be merged with the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate) will continue to have powers to inspect local authorities under Best Value, with any inspection in future being triggered primarily by risk assessment. The Audit Commission will also manage the overall programme of inspection and external assessment of local authorities to reduce duplication and ensure inspection and assessment is better co-ordinated and proportionate to risk.

Other regulators and inspectorates with responsibilities for inspection of some local authority services include the new Ofsted, the Adult Social Care Inspectorate which will bring together Commission for Social Care Inspection and Healthcare Commission functions, and the existing five criminal justice inspectorates.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on *(a)* the timetable and *(b)* progress achieved on reducing the number of central Government targets for local authorities to 200. [145161]

Mr. Woolas: As we set out in the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities", we are developing a single set of national priority outcomes for local government working on its own or in partnership, measured by a single set of around 200 national indicators which will underpin the new performance framework. These outcomes and indicators will reflect decisions taken in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which is currently under way and details will be published as part of the CSR announcement in the autumn. Implementation will take place from April 2008.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will reconsider the inclusion of clause 39 in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill following the combined 2007 Scottish Parliamentary and Scottish local elections; and if she will make a statement. [145160]

Mr. Woolas: Clause 60 (previously clause 39, prior to Report stage in the House of Commons) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill provides for the Secretary of State, by order, to move the date of the local government elections in a year so that these coincide with the European parliamentary general election in that year. Any such order must be approved by both Houses of Parliament, following consultation with the Electoral Commission and other appropriate persons. This process will ensure that, in any year, the merits of holding the elections on the same day will be fully considered.

Local Government: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* special grants and *(b)* specific grants were paid to local authorities in England in 2006-07. [145538]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the reports and related tables for the Local Government Finance Settlement 2006-07. Copies of the reports, tables and other supporting material were made available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House on 31 January 2006. Key Table 2 set out the specific and special grants to be paid in that year. Information covering all grants paid to local authorities in that year will be available from the local authority outturn return. There were no grants paid in 2006-07 using the special grant making powers under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (substituted by paragraph 18 of schedule 10 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992).

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the pay ranges are for senior local government officials and chief executives. [144168]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect this information. Information on chief executives' and chief officers' pay can be obtained from the Local Government Employers' website http://www.lge.gov.uk.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take into account local polls of public opinion on local government reorganisation when selecting the unitary bids she will be taking forward; and if she will make a statement. [145101]

Mr. Woolas: Local polls of public opinion are one of many relevant matters to which we will have regard when assessing unitary proposals against our five criteria set out in the invitation document published on 26 October 2006.

Local Government: Somerset

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to take into account the result of expressions of public opinion on local government reform in Somerset; and if she will make a statement. [144737]

Mr. Woolas: Expressions of public opinion are one of many relevant matters to which we will have regard when assessing unitary proposals against our five criteria set out in the invitation document published on 26 October 2006.

Non-Domestic Rates

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in the Valuation Office Agency undertake work in relation to assessment casework for business rates valuations. [143669]

Mr. Woolas: It is the policy of the Department not to comment on staffing matters.

Owner Occupation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the causes of the recent trends in the level of home ownership. [145225]

Yvette Cooper: Low mortgage rates and economic stability have increased the number of home owners by over one million since 1997. However, rising house prices have created pressure for first-time buyers. Kate Barker's review of housing supply showed that the industry had not been building enough homes to meet demand for over a generation.

The annual rate of new housing supply has increased by 40 per cent. since 2001 but we plan to go further in order to address the long-term problems of worsening affordability and help more people realise their aspirations to own their own home.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of home ownership was in England in each year since 1996-97. [145169]

Yvette Cooper: Estimates of the level of home ownership in England from 1996 to 2006 are shown below. This is based on a sample survey and so results can fluctuate from one year to the next.

Number of homeowners in England

	Number (Thousand)
1996	13,521
1997	13,587
1998	13,783
1999	14,021
2000	14,267
2001	14,284
2002	14,454
2003	14,574
2004	14,576
2005	14,646
2006	14,621

Source:
Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey

Peterborough City Council: Grants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if officials from her Department will meet Peterborough city council in the near future to discuss grant funding; and if she will make a statement. [144290]

Mr. Woolas: We have been reviewing, with local government, a number of the formulae used to distribute grant to local authorities and will be undertaking a full consultation exercise over the summer, when all local authorities will have full opportunity to respond to our proposals.

Planning Inspectorate: Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Planning Inspectorate spent on consultants (excluding the cost of consultant inspectors) in each of the last four years; and what such consultants were tasked to work on. [144717]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning Inspectorate's spend on external advice and contracts over the last four financial years has been:

	Total (£)
2003-04	2,778,726
2004-05	2,824,952
2005-06	3,380,614
2006-07	1,604,379

This included:

Planning Portal Development
Planning Casework System Development
Human Resources and Training Development
Major Inspector Recruitment Advice
Agency Restructuring Advice
Baseline Study of Inspector Working
Electronic Business Modelling
Householder Development Consent Review

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures the Planning Inspectorate has in place to achieve value for money in the procurement of external consultants undertaken by the agency's procurement unit. [144720]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning Inspectorate has a dedicated procurement unit and all consultancy contracts are handled within that unit. In the drive to deliver value for money close attention is paid to standard best practice procurement procedures, from clear specification through to effective contract management. Extensive use is also made of the framework contracts managed by the Office of Government Commerce to deliver both price and process savings.

Planning Policy Statement 3: Regulatory Impact Assessments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the regulatory impact assessment for Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) was published after PPS3 came into effect. [145155]

Yvette Cooper: The Department produced a partial regulatory impact assessment as part of the consultation paper on a new Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) "Housing", which we published in December 2005.

Subsequently, we considered those consultation responses made in respect to the partial assessment to inform the final regulatory impact assessment. This analysis is set out in the 'Consultation on Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3)—A summary of responses and key issues', which we published alongside final PPS3 in November 2006.

While a regulatory impact assessment had been produced at the time of launching PPS3, unfortunately, this was not published until May 2007.

Planning: Reform

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for the *(a)* consultation and *(b)* legislation on reform of the planning system, following the publication of the Planning White Paper. [145138]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are consulting on some key proposals and other issues in the White Paper 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' (Cm7120) and four associated consultation papers on: planning performance agreements; planning fees; changes to permitted development rights for householders; and improving the appeal process. The closing date for responses is August 17 2007. Paragraphs 10.15 and 10.16 of the White Paper describe further consultations proposed during 2007 and 2008.

By summer 2007 we will consult on a new draft national Planning Policy Statement 'Planning for Economic Development', proposals to replace the need and impact tests with a new test, and proposals to reduce the Secretary of State's involvement in planning cases.

By the end of 2007 we will consult on proposals to extend permitted development rights for the installation of microgeneration equipment without planning permission to non-residential users, on detailed changes to regulations, policy and guidance in relation to local plan making, on proposals on revised arrangements for statutory consultees and on proposals to extend the impact approach to minor non-householder development.

By summer 2008 we will consult on proposals for revising the main legislation covering the process of submitting and considering planning applications.

The Government plan to legislate at the earliest opportunity, with the aim of having the infrastructure planning commission operational in 2009.

Refuges: Females

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many recorded cases there were of women being housed in refuges and safe houses in West Lancashire constituency in 2006. [144822]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not hold a total figure centrally.

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. The duty owed to a household accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If

a settled home is not immediately available the authority may secure temporary accommodation until settled accommodation is provided.

One type of temporary accommodation is women's refuges. A breakdown by local authority of reported households in women's refuges under homelessness provisions at the end of December 2006 has been placed in the Library of the House. The West Lancashire constituency falls within West Lancashire district local authority.

Women may also enter refuges without going through the statutory homelessness route. Many women's refuges receive Supporting People funding, and records of new entrants to Supporting People funded services are submitted by service providers on the Client Record form.

Data from the Client Record form are published on the Centre for Housing Research's website, for financial years and at administrative authority level. This includes the number of new clients entering Supporting People funded women's refuges, for service providers in each of the administrating authorities, including Lancashire county council, in 2006-07, in table 2.1: http://ggsrv-cold.st-andrews.ac.uk/spclientrecord/, (follow the links to "Latest Reports", then "Reporting to Administering Authorities").

It is important to note that imputation has not been made for cases when the Client Record form was not submitted, and that these figures only cover Supporting People funded services.

Regional Planning and Development: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the Government's targets *(a)* to create 180,000 jobs and *(b)* to build 160,000 new homes in the Thames Gateway between 2001 and 2016; and if she will make a statement on progress made to date towards meeting each target. [140631]

Yvette Cooper: The Government target to create the conditions for 180,000 jobs and the capacity for 160,000 homes was published in the Thames Gateway Interim Plan. The plan was endorsed by the relevant regional assemblies, regional development agencies, local regeneration partnerships and other key stakeholders through the Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership. The Department continues to work with the partnership and others in pursuing its shared objectives.

In 2005, there were approximately 58,600 more employees in the Thames Gateway than in 2001, an increase of 9.7 per cent. This is equivalent to an increase of approximately 46,600 or 9 per cent. in the number of full-time equivalent jobs.

Between 2001-02 and 2005-06, a total of 29,775 net new dwellings have been added to the housing stock of the Thames Gateway.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the *(a)* approval, *(b)* amendment and *(c)* ratification of each of the regional spatial strategies. [145137]

Meg Munn: The following table sets out the Secretary of State's current plans for publication of proposed changes and the issue of final Regional Spatial Strategies in each of the eight English regions outside London.

	Proposed Changes	*Issue of Final RSS*
North East	May 2007	January 2008
North West	October 2007	March 2007
Yorkshire and Humberside	September 2007	February 2008
East Midlands	January 2008	July 2008
West Midlands (Phase 1)	July 2007	November 2007
West Midlands (Phase 2)	February 2009	June 2009
East of England	December 2006	Autumn 2007
South East	Autumn 2007	Spring 2008
South West	February 2008	June 2008

Small Businesses: Rates and Rating

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the take-up rate was for small business rate relief in each year since its introduction. [145159]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Rented Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether data on the location of subsidised housing from the National Register of Social Housing are used by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax valuation purposes. [128491]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Subsidence

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what policies her Department has in place with regard to local authorities dealing with widespread and severe subsidence in public areas; and if she will make a statement; [141999]

(2) whether her Department provides a contingency fund which local authorities can access to deal with severe and widespread subsidence in public areas caused by abandoned mineworkings. [142001]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answers 11 June 2007]:* The Department has in place the Land Stabilisation Programme as a source of contingency funding, which provides local authorities with financial assistance with meeting a proportion of the costs for dealing with unforeseen land instability problems caused by abandoned non-coal mines, where the project costs are judged to be eligible.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department has made available to local authorities affected by widespread and severe subsidence in public areas caused by abandoned mineworkings operated by companies no longer in existence on how to determine where the financial liabilities lie for restoring affected public areas, public buildings and private properties; [142000]

(2) what *(a)* financial assistance, *(b)* additional powers or responsibilities and *(c)* legal and technical assistance her Department makes available to local authorities dealing with severe subsidence in public areas; [142002]

(3) what courses of action are available to local authorities to provide remedies to *(a)* schools, *(b)* housing estates and *(c)* other public spaces affected by severe subsidence caused by derelict mineworkings; and if she will make a statement. [142003]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answers 11 June 2007]:* Statutory responsibility in ensuring public safety from threats stemming from land instability lies with local authorities. Local authorities in England are eligible to apply to the Land Stabilisation Programme via English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, for assistance with funding for land stabilisation problems arising from abandoned non-coal mines. English Partnerships manages the Land Stabilisation Programme on behalf of the Department. The focus of funding through the Land Stabilisation Programme is principally on removal of blight or enabling investment to regenerate areas where abandoned underground non-coal mine workings are present and where there is a threat to life and/or property. Extensive guidance on the assistance available and how to apply for assistance with funding can be found on the English Partnerships website at:

www.englishpartnerships.co.uk.

Responsibility for dealing with stabilisation works and for complying with any regulations or legislation governing public health and safety lies at all times with local authorities. This includes compliance with planning requirements environmental protection and management of consultants/contractors. English Partnerships' expertise in best value and best practice is available to all project partners and covers a wide range of subjects such as construction methods and standards, management techniques, sustainable remediation and regeneration of blighted land. Where project costs are not eligible for assistance from EP via the Land Stabilisation Programme, EP will nevertheless assist with advice.

Funding assistance for local authorities provided through the non-coalmining Land Stabilisation Programme can help to safeguard or remediate housing, commercial and other properties and public areas, including schools, above the mines.

Travelling People

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have produced Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments deemed inadequate by her Department on grounds of *(a)* unreliable figures and *(b)* inadequate research; and if she will make a statement. [145019]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 142434).

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to ensure that the Travellers' site at Ecton Lane is provided with the floodlighting and perimeter fencing as specified in the bid for funding approved by her Department. [146002]

Meg Munn: The completion of fencing as required by the contract specification is currently being undertaken by a fencing contractor, and is programmed to be completed by 20 July 2007.

The floodlighting is now being undertaken by electrical contractors. These works have a target completion date of 27 July 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the quality of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments which she has received to date; and if she will make a statement. [142434]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State does not have a formal role in assessing the quality of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments. Communities and Local Government will offer advice and support to local authorities on undertaking these assessments as necessary. Draft guidance was published in February 2006, and a final version has now been laid before Parliament, as required by the Housing Act 2004.

Regional assemblies will need to consider the quality of these assessments as they revise regional spatial strategies to identify pitch requirements at a regional level and allocate these between local authorities. Research undertaken for Communities and Local Government, "Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies", provides regional assemblies with a methodology for this. This is available on the Communities and Local Government website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1508208

Westminster City Council: Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1693W, if she will commission an independent assessment of Westminster city council's ability to procure short-term leased temporary accommodation for homeless households within its area before making any further reductions in housing benefit subsidy in 2008-09. [145165]

Yvette Cooper: A questionnaire has been sent to a sample of local authorities seeking information on the use and costs of temporary accommodation. Until we have considered the results of this questionnaire no decision can be made about subsidy arrangements in respect of homeless households in temporary accommodation for 2008-09.

We are continuing to work with the Department for Works and Pensions and the devolved Administrations on our longer term proposals which would separate out reasonable costs for the rent and management of temporary accommodation; we would expect these to take effect from 2009.

TRANSPORT

A21

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which properties have been purchased under compulsory purchase orders along the proposed route of the A21 upgrade. [145672]

Dr. Ladyman: No properties have been purchased under compulsory purchase orders along the proposed route of the A21 upgrade.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on the Weald Smokery, East Sussex, following its acquisition under blight provisions. [145671]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency purchased Weald Smokery on 8 May 2007. The property itself was purchased for £1,395,657.00 which includes the farmhouse at £525,000, the business at £810,657 and the land stables at £60,000.

Following the purchase of the Weald Smokery under statutory blight provisions, the Highways Agency has incurred costs of £4,131 + VAT to date.

Aviation: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many scheduled flights took place between *(a)* Glasgow and London and *(b)* Edinburgh and London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [145760]

Gillian Merron: The number of scheduled flights that took place between *(a)* Glasgow and London and *(b)* Edinburgh and London in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006 were as follows:

Number of Scheduled flights between:	*1997*	*2006*
Glasgow and London	22,318	24,371
Edinburgh and London	26,307	35,045

Note:
London airports include Gatwick, Heathrow, London City, Luton and Stansted

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the likely change in number of speeding fines issued as a result of the new speed camera guidance effective from 1 April. [145765]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has not commissioned or reviewed any research on the likely change in number of speeding fines issued as a result of the new speed camera guidance. The guidance provides local authorities with greater freedom and flexibility on the deployment of cameras, allowing them to enforce in response to community concerns or at sites where there are speeding problems and a high risk that casualties will occur.

Travel: Carbon Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate his Department has made of the carbon emissions which would be caused by a journey from *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Edinburgh to London using a high-speed rail service; [145761]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the carbon emissions caused by a journey from *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Edinburgh to London by aeroplane. [145762]

Gillian Merron: The Department estimates that the per passenger carbon emissions for a journey between London and Edinburgh will be approximately 8 kg carbon for conventional speed rail, 17 kg carbon for high speed rail, and 26 kg carbon for aviation. Passenger carbon emissions are likely to be similar between Glasgow and London.

These rail estimates assume an approximate 600 km distance, current electricity generation mix, average intercity train occupancy of 38 per cent., and the same number of passengers using a high speed rail service as the conventional rail service. The estimates will be sensitive to these assumptions.

The estimate for air is based on Department for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs estimates of average per passenger kilometre emissions for domestic flights.[1] Estimates of rail carbon emissions are based on estimates by Professor Roger Kemp of Lancaster University[2] and Department for Transport modelling.

[1] DEFRA. Guidelines to DEFRA's Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. (2007)

[2] Interfleet Traction Energy Metrics (2007)

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games: Greater London

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision she is making for providing Dorset police authority with full funding for any security arrangements they provide for the Olympic games held in Dorset. [145593]

Mr. Caborn *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The Home Office and Olympic security co-ordinator are developing and costing the security planning and operation for London 2012. This will be published when appropriate, and will include relevant costs for police forces outside London.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much she has allocated to the development of British sportsmen and women until 2012; how many recipients of such funding live in

Ribble Valley constituency; and what proportion of the funding allocated to the 2012 Olympic games is for the development of sporting talent. [145959]

Mr. Caborn: UK Sport, the Government's lead agency for high performance sport, is scheduled to allocate £600 million to the development of British sportsmen and women between now and 2012. £252 million has already been allocated to supporting Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes through to the Beijing games in 2008. £216.4 million has been awarded directly to the national governing bodies and the athletes via UK Sport's world-class pathway programme, with the remainder funding key athlete support services such as sports science and medicine, and technology research and innovation.

The world-class pathway programme supports athletes at three different levels: World-class talent, world-class development and world-class podium. Of the total through to Beijing, approximately 50 per cent. of funding is focused on the world-class talent and development pathways.

Funding for each sport beyond 2008-09 will be decided after a comprehensive review of its performance at the Beijing games, and assessment of its potential for future success at London 2012.

At present there are three athletes from the Ribble Valley area on the world-class pathway programme.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Polygamy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for polygamy there were in the last 12 months. [144224]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

There is no offence of polygamy as such. A person who enters into a second or subsequent marriage while the first is still valid commits an offence of bigamy under section 57 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

The most recent data available, from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, show that in England and Wales in 2005, 28 defendants were prosecuted for and 21 found guilty of the offence of bigamy. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007 and data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Fire Prevention

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what guidance has been provided on the implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in churches. [145722]

Sir Stuart Bell: Comprehensive guidance to the legislation may be found on the Department of Communities and Local Government website and the Churches Main Committee has circulated supplementary guidance on the regulations' effect on places of worship. Church Fire Guidance Notes are available from Ecclesiastical Insurance and from the Churchcare website

http://www.churchcare.co.uk/atoz_fire.php

Churches should be aware that, in practice, the 2005 Order did not significantly change the requirements falling on them. All churches are recommended to make a 'suitable and sufficient' risk assessment and act upon it.

WALES

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145985]

Mr. Hain: No Wales Office staff have cited stress as a reason for sick absence in the last three years.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Absent Voting: Proof of Identity

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to check what proportion of postal vote identifiers were checked in the 2007 local elections. [142188]

Peter Viggers: On 20 February, the Department for Constitutional Affairs formally requested the Commission to carry out a review of the introduction of personal identifiers for absent voting in England and Wales, and to report by 31 July 2007. The Electoral Commission informs me that it has asked Returning Officers to supply information about the levels of checking they undertook in the 2007 local elections, and intends to include the information supplied by Returning Officers in its report.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Catering

Mr. Hands: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much it has cost to commission the Russell Partnership to conduct a survey into catering services in the House. [144925]

Nick Harvey: Invoices have not yet been received for this work, but the tendered price to carry out two surveys (one for staff of the House and one for Members' staff) and to carry out interviews with a sample of around 35 Members is £6,950.

The work is being carried out to provide qualitative information for the benchmarking of the House of Commons Refreshment Department's services, which was recommended by the Administration Committee in their report on Refreshment Department Services (HC 733) published on 14 February 2006.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145298]

Mr. Hain: The following table represents the amount spent by staff in the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) Credit Cards	0	0	0
(b) Government Procurement Card	0	9,521	66,810
(c) Fuel Cards	32,376	29,605	17,965

The Northern Ireland Office does not have departmental credit cards.

The Government Purchasing Card (GPC) was fully introduced in the Northern Ireland Office in the 2006-07 financial year as a tool to purchase and pay for low value goods and services.

Departments: Legal Costs

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 19W, on Departments: legal costs, how much of the expenditure on legal fees in each of the last five years was incurred *(a)* by the Public Prosecution Services, *(b)* in respect of the Saville inquiry, *(c)* in respect of the Finucane, Nelson, Hamill and Wright inquiries, *(d)* by the Crown Solicitor's Office and *(e)* by other parts of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [141257]

Mr. Hain: Pursuant to the answer provided on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 19W, on the Department's legal costs, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) expenditure is broken down as follows:

£

Legal fees	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) Public Prosecution Service	5,005,857	5,374,952	6,357,772	6,783,071	9,858,615
(b) Bloody Sunday Inquiry	9,746	3,000	12,361	1,733	65,310
(c) Finucane, Nelson, Hamill and Wright Inquiries	0	1,733	110	15,177	10,408
(d) Crown Solicitors Office	160,958	87,391	301,283	364,638	230,164
(e) Other parts of NIO Department	337,587	117,413	332,880	169,411	705,432
Total	5,514,148	5,584,489	7,004,406	7,334,030	10,869,929

The hon. Member should note that the total figures have changed from the answer given on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 19W. Some legal costs were omitted in error for which I apologise.

The original answer should have read:

"The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has spent the following on legal fees in each of the last five years:

	Legal fees (£)
2002-03	5,514,148
2003-04	5,584,489
2004-05	7,004,406
2005-06	7,334,030
2006-07	10,869,929

Legal fees for the NIO have risen substantially in 2006-07, mainly due to expenditure by the Public Prosecution Service on the Omagh bomb trial, and also on the trial of James Fulton and his associates, which proved to be the longest murder trial in NI history. These two cases alone have accounted for an increase in legal expenditure of £2 million. Scale fees for counsel also increased in April 2006, the first increase in a number of years, and this also contributed to overall increase in 06/07."

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which destinations he visited in an official capacity between 17 May and 17 June. [144547]

Mr. Hain: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers

In regards to domestic travel, between 17 May and 17 June 2007 I have been in Northern Ireland and London in my official capacity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's budget is in 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the budget for 2008-09. [144791]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its agencies and NDPBs, has been allocated the following funding for 2007-08 as per the published Treasury Main Supply Estimates 2007-08:

	£
Resource DEL	1,141,000,000
Capital DEL	71,913,000

The Department's 2008-09 budget will not be established until the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review is announced. This covers the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145280]

Mr. Hain: From April 2006 to March 2007 the Northern Ireland Office carried out 19 consultation exercises. The following table lists the consultations undertaken and the costs involved. Where the costs are listed as '0' only the price of circulating the consultation document has been incurred. This information relates only to the NIO and does not include its agencies or NDPBs.

Consultation	*Cost (£)*
Draft Policing (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 2007.	1,500
Young People and Licensed Firearms A review of the relevant provisions of the Firearms (NI) Order 2004.	0
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 -review of temporary provisions.	0
New regulations and an approved code of practice and guidance on the manufacture and storage of explosives in Northern Ireland.	1,550.17
The Police and Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (NI) Order 2006	5,755.97
Road Traffic and Driver Disqualification.	2014.58
Making Sure Crime Doesn't Pay—Proposals for a new measure to prevent convicted criminals profiting from published accounts of their crime.	2,372.56
Consultation on Quashing Convictions.	2,245.83
The law on knives in Northern Ireland.	2,959.03
Increasing penalties for deliberate misuse of personal data.	0
Proposals to amend the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Order (NI) 1979.	2,348.87
A Protocol for community based restorative justice schemes.	310.63
Reforming the law on Sexual Offences in Northern Ireland.	2,503.30
Delivering a better service to Victims and Witnesses of Crime—A NI draft strategy.	0
Hidden Crimes, Secret Pain—A consultation paper on a proposed regional strategy.	2,316.86
Consultation on proposals for the Juvenile Justice Centre (NI) Order (Supervision) Rules (NI) 2007.	3,330
A Forum on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland—A Consultation Paper.	0
Regulating the Private Security Industry in Northern Ireland.	0
Replacement arrangements for the Diplock Court System.	0

Rape: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average sentence handed down by courts in Northern Ireland for rape was in each of the last three years. [145487]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 as follows gives the number sentenced to immediate custody for rape and attempted rape and the average sentence length given for each of these offences and in total.

Data cover the calendar years 2003 to 2005 (the latest available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number sentenced to immediate custody and the average custodial sentence length in months for rape and attempted rape 2003-05

	2003		*2004*		*2005*	
Offence	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (months)*	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (months)*	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (months)*
Rape	8	100	14	[1]91	4	105
Attempted rape	1	24	3	104	4	87
Total	9	91	17	116	8	96

[1] Excludes one person sentenced to life imprisonment for rape.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the political situation on a regional level in Afghanistan. [144776]

Dr. Howells: The general political situation in Afghanistan is relatively stable. The influence of the central Government outside Kabul is gradually increasing, particularly in the north and west. Local governance structures are slowly being built up, although this is more challenging in some areas than others. One of the key aims of the international-led provincial reconstruction teams,

throughout the country, is to support the development of local government and to help the Government of Afghanistan extend their reach.

British Nationality: Prisoners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British subjects are serving jail sentences in prisons in the European Union, broken down by country. [145873]

Mr. Hoon: On 31 March, British consular officials were aware of 851 British nationals detained in EU countries. The breakdown by country is shown in the following table. These figures include detainees on remand, as well as those serving sentences.

Country	*Number of detainees*
Austria	4
Belgium	23
Bulgaria	0
Cyprus	18
Czech Republic	4
Denmark	12
Estonia	0
Finland	2
France	107
Germany	121
Greece	18
Hungary	1
Ireland	91
Italy	18
Latvia	0
Lithuania	0
Luxembourg	5
Malta	6
Netherlands	60
Poland	2
Portugal	27
Romania	0
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	2
Spain	304
Sweden	25
Total	851

Iran: Embassies

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the extent and nature of the recent harassment of guests to the United Kingdom embassy in Iran and *(b)* the extent to which the Iranian authorities assisted in minimising the harassment and controlling the demonstrators; and if she will make a statement. [145920]

Dr. Howells: There was a large demonstration outside our embassy in Tehran before and during Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Party reception on 14 June. The demonstrators blocked access to the embassy for some hours and harassed and intimidated guests on their way into the reception. There were some instances of physical violence. Harassment continued as guests left the party and we are aware of a number of instances of guests being questioned and detained on departure.

The Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office summoned the Iranian ambassador on 19 June to register our dismay that the authorities had failed to prevent this harassment from taking place. Our embassy in Tehran has done likewise with the Iranian authorities.

Palestinians: Lebanon

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on providing aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. [144777]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has ongoing discussions with her ministerial colleagues on a range of issues on the Middle East including provision of aid. Officials are also in regular contact to discuss these issues.

The Department for International Development takes the lead on the provision of aid and has a significant programme of assistance to Palestinians in Lebanon. The UK is a regular and significant donor to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who are taking the leading role in the humanitarian response to the crisis at the Nahr El Bared refugee camp. The Government have committed £100 million of funding to UNRWA's work in the region over the next five years. Historically, around 20 per cent. of UNRWA spending is on Lebanon.

The UK is also supporting the Lebanon operation of the non-governmental organisation 'Mines Action Group' (MAG) which is standing by to assist in clearing unexploded ordnance in the Palestinian refugee camp directly affected by the recent violence in the north of the country. We are providing £290,000 to MAG in Lebanon this financial year, with projected total funding to MAG's work in the country at over £980,000 over the next three years.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on stability in the region of the newly formed Palestinian Government. [144774]

Dr. Howells: We have made no assessment of the effect the new Palestinian Government have had on stability in the region. We, along with regional partners, are concerned about the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Palestinian President Abbas, US Secretary of State Rice and the Egyptian, Omani and Qatari Foreign Ministers ahead of the Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting on 15 June. We support President Abbas and the emergency Government.

Arab League Foreign Ministers on 15 June agreed to support President Abbas and condemned all parties for

the violence. The Arab League agreed to establish a Fact-Finding Committee (Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Qatar) to engage with the parties.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the mission in Helmand province was originally expected to end; and what the most recent estimate is of what that date will be. [144778]

Des Browne: The current deployment of UK troops in the South of Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force is planned until 2009, although we have always made it clear that our commitment to Afghanistan is a long-term one. The size and duration of the UK presence in Helmand will depend on a number of factors including the ability of Afghan security forces to take greater responsibility for the security of their own country.

Al Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which organisations had drawing rights on the special account held at the Bank of England in relation to the Al Yamamah contract; and what information his Department had on the identity of those with drawing rights on accounts to which money was sent from that special account. [144255]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1989W.

Armed Forces: Cultural Heritage

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice is given to UK armed forces personnel serving in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* other theatres overseas on the buying and export from the country of origin of ancient coins and antiquities and other cultural property; and if he will make a statement. [142701]

Mr. Ingram: Guidance on this issue is provided in both a Defence Council Instruction (DCI) and a Defence Operational Instruction (DOI) on the retention of captured enemy equipment as operational memorabilia (OM).

Specifically in relation to OM: the DCI states

"Units are to ensure that neither items of private property nor those that could be seen as having historical, cultural or religious significance are removed."

and the DOI states

"Items of private property or items that could be seen as having historic, cultural or religious significance are not to be removed."

In addition there are provisions within the agreements between UK and the host nation in which our troops are serving that state that personnel will respect the laws, regulations, customs and traditions of the host country insofar as this is compatible with the entrusted task and mandate.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* rank, *(b)* age, *(c)* sex, *(d)* regiment and *(e)* last theatre of operation is of those service personnel classed as being absent without leave and who have not yet been unaccounted for. [145958]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as at 25 June 2007, the numbers of personnel who have gone absent without leave from the services since 1 January 2003 and remain so are:

Service	*Number*
Army	960
RAF	10
Navy	15

These figures are rounded to the nearest five. They are subject to daily changes as individuals return to their units.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of accommodation provided by his Department to non-ministerial members of the Army Board is considered to be of Standard 1 condition. [137729]

Derek Twigg: Of the five non-ministerial members of the Army Board who are provided with accommodation, two (40 per cent.) occupy Standard 1 Condition properties. They are the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff. The property occupied by the Chief of the General Staff is not owned or maintained by the MOD and therefore is not classified using the MOD system.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed services personnel *(a)* were barracked in the UK and *(b)* had a private residence that was not provided by the armed forces in each of the last five years. [137899]

Derek Twigg: Figures for the period 2003 to 2006 are set out as follows. The term 'barracked in the UK' has been taken to include all Service Family Accommodation (SFA), Single Living Accommodation (SLA), Substitute Service Families Accommodation (SSFA) and Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA). The information requested is currently captured as at 1 April each year, but this only began in 2003 for SFA and 2004 for SLA. The allocation and occupancy of SFA is managed on a single information system, but in the case of SLA differences in reporting, for example over whether SLA is formally allocated to individuals in dormitories, mean that the figures should be regarded as approximate. Information on SLA occupied by those undergoing Phase 1 and 2 training (basic recruit/trade training) is not available for 2004 and 2005, but is included in the 2006 figures. Comparable figures for 2007 are not yet available.

	1 April each year:			
	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of entitled Service personnel accommodated in SFA/SSFA in UK	43,148	42,848	42,848	43,339
Number of entitled Service personnel accommodated in SLA/SSLA in UK	n/a	89,990	91,979	108,308
Total number of entitled Service personnel Barracked in UK	—	132,838	134,827	151,647

n/a = Not available

Information on whether Service personnel own a private residence is not held by the Ministry of Defence. However, estimates derived from surveys indicate that the level of home ownership is approximately 73 per cent. for Officers and 45 per cent. for Other Ranks.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of bringing all family accommodation at Pirbright barracks to an acceptable standard for habitation. [141845]

Derek Twigg: We have not yet made any dedicated estimate of the cost of bringing all Service Families Accommodation (SFA) at Pirbright Barracks to an acceptable standard.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [145342]

Derek Twigg: Sums paid to Common Purpose UK in each of the last complete five financial years, inclusive of VAT, are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2002-03	56,576.25
2003-04	66,716.50
2004-05	42,958.00
2005-06	58,456.27
2006-07	83,817.89

These payments covered the cost of participation by MOD staff in Common Purpose UK's training and education programmes. Programmes of this nature help to develop leadership skills, to gain understanding about broader aspects of government and to share experience with and learn from participants from both the private and public sectors.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145677]

Derek Twigg: Departmental staffs 60 and over are shown as follows:

	Percentage
April 2005	
Percentage of staff aged 60 and over	5.8
April 2006	
Percentage of staff aged 60 and over	6.5
April 2007	
Percentage of staff aged 60 and over	7.6

Source:
DASA (Civilian)

Figures quoted include trading funds, but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and locally engaged staff. Percentages have been calculated on unrounded figures.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145709]

Derek Twigg: The following table gives details of civilian personnel recruited by the Ministry of Defence:

Civilian inflow to the Ministry of Defence by financial year

Headcount

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Age	Total inflow	Percentage of total inflow	Total inflow	Percentage of total inflow	Total inflow	Percentage of total inflow
55 to 59	590	6.3	360	5.8	350	6.2
60+	310	3.3	210	3.3	220	4.0
55+	900	9.6	570	9.2	570	10.2

Notes:
1. This includes industrial and non industrial staff employed by the Ministry of Defence and trading funds, but excludes Royal Fleet Auxiliaries and locally engaged staff.
2. Percentages are calculated on unrounded figures and exclude staff of unknown age.
3. Staff grouped 55+ are a subset of 60+.
4. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:
DASA (Civilian)

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145256]

Derek Twigg: There are a variety of staff surveys conducted by the Ministry of Defence. Details of these surveys are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The four principal staff surveys conducted in the last 12 months were of the Naval Services, Army, RAF and civilian personnel.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ordinary written questions tabled to his Department by hon. Members have been waiting for a substantive reply for more than *(a)* one month and *(b)* two months; and what the subjects are of those questions. [144587]

Derek Twigg: As at 25 June, five ordinary written questions had been waiting for a reply for between one and two months and eight for more than two months. The questions are various and include subjects such as insurgency in Iraq, contaminated land, service personnel issues, and costs and expense claims of Army Board members.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capabilities of insurgents in Iraq to launch attacks on naval and maritime targets. [110370]

Des Browne: We keep the capability of insurgents in Iraq under constant review, including their capability to launch attacks on naval and maritime targets. This is a credible threat and our current force structure reflects that assessment.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with senior army personnel on the death of Baha Mousa in Basra in 2003; and if he will make a statement. [143699]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Secretary of State for Defence has regular discussions with senior army personnel on a range of matters. In line with standard practice, the Royal military police are currently reviewing the evidence from the court-martial. The Army Reviewing Authority is also conducting a statutory review of the sentence passed on Corporal Payne and the case remains sub judice. We will make a statement when these reviews are complete.

Land: Sales

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on land: sales, on what basis a contaminated site is not remediated before sale; and on what basis land on Matapan Road, Hilsea was not remediated. [134491]

Derek Twigg: It is normal for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to undertake Land Quality Assessments (LQAs) on all sites being considered for disposal. Before the sale of a site, the MOD will generally undertake remediation of ordnance and other defence specific contaminants such as chemical agents, radioactive and microbiological materials.

A phase I and phase II LQA survey for the Royal Navy Motor Transport Depot site at Hilsea concluded there were no unacceptable risks to public health or the environment and action was not required under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Low levels of contamination were identified but no remediation measures by this Department were deemed necessary.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the value was of illegal narcotics seized by the Royal Navy in all theatres in each of the last three years; [143363]

(2) what value of illegal narcotics was seized by the Royal Navy in all theatres in each of the last three years. [144007]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 18 June 2007]:* All drugs seizures involving Royal Naval vessels or Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels over the past three years have taken place in the Caribbean or the Atlantic.

Figures for total tonnage seized also include estimated amounts that traffickers have jettisoned or destroyed during Royal Naval interdiction operations.

It is difficult to put an accurate value on the amount of illegal drugs seized or destroyed in these operations. The price of illegal drugs varies greatly depending on supply and demand, as well as the purity of the drugs themselves when they reach the UK market. Therefore quoted MOD figures for the "street value" of successful seizures are always estimates. Against that background and following close consultation with the Serious Organised Crime Agency since its formation in April last year, we have revised our overall figures for 2006-07 seizures (better reflecting the actual street value).

The tonnage and estimated value of Royal Naval drugs seizures over the last three reporting years are set out as follows.

	Tonnage (to nearest metric tonne).	*Estimated street value (£ million)*
2004-05	10	500
2005-06	14	840
2006-07	17	680

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to question 134491, on land: sales, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 24 April 2007; and what the reasons are for the delay. [144584]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member today. The delay occurred because I sought further information in order to give the fullest possible reply.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between her Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145936]

Hilary Armstrong: We do not have a concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive. The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

Voluntary Organisations: National Lottery

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will make a statement on the impact of funding plans for the 2012 Olympics on lottery funding for voluntary sector organisations. [143869]

Hilary Armstrong: The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) is the main distributor of lottery funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The BLF has committed to distributing 60-70 per cent. of its money to the voluntary sector and that commitment is based on the money the sector would have received without the Olympic transfer, not 60-70 per cent. of what is left. The commitment remains unchanged, and the NCVO has welcomed this. It will allow for the important work carried out by Third Sector organisations, for the benefit of individuals and communities, to continue.

The other lottery distributors are currently considering the specific impact of the Olympics funding on the VCS. However, lottery money will not be transferred to Olympic funding before 2009. This is in order to give the distributors the highest degree of certainty and the greatest possible time for planning. The other distributors are also concerned to ensure that support for small-scale and voluntary sector projects remains available.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145296]

Mr. Thomas: Department for International Development spend on departmental credit, procurement and fuel cards in the last three years is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	Credit card	Procurement card	Fuel card	Total for year
2004	41,980	127,840	0	169,820
2005	56,981	2,594,110	0	2,651,091
2006	16,567	2,684,785	0	2,701,352
Year to date	[1]0	770,182	0	770,182

[1] The use of the credit card ceased in August 2006

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144947]

Mr. Thomas: The vast majority of light bulbs and fluorescent tubes used in DFID are of the energy efficient type. DFID purchased 1,645 bulbs and fluorescent tubes in the 2005-06 financial year and 2,015 in 2006-07.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145684]

Mr. Thomas: Information on the number of staff over 60 is not available for March 2005, but figures for the last two years are shown in the following table. The figures relate to both our UK-based staff and staff appointed locally overseas.

As of 31 March:	Total number of staff	Number of staff over 60	Percentage
2005	2,917	[1]—	[1]—
2006	2,779	51	1.84
2007	2,630	67	2.55

[1] Not available

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145702]

Mr. Thomas: In 2004, there were 409 new recruits to DFID, of which 10 were over age 55 and a further three over age 60. These represent 2.44 per cent. and 0.73 per cent. of the total respectively.

For 2005, there were 243 new recruits to DFID, of which eight (3.29 per cent.) were over age 55 and one (0.41 per cent.) was over age 60.

In 2006 the total was 208, with six (2.88 per cent.) over age 55 and none over age 60.

These figures include both our UK-based staff and those appointed locally overseas.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145978]

Mr. Thomas: Data on stress related absence in DFID are only available for the last year and the estimated figure for this was 1.1 per cent. of total sickness absence in that period. Data are not available for the previous two years and could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 8W, which set out the steps DFID has taken to prevent and manage stress in the workplace. On 1 July DFID will launch our Better Balance Campaign which is specifically targeted at raising awareness of stress-related issues and the support available to tackle these.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the resumption of European Union aid to the Palestinian Authority. [144775]

Hilary Benn: The UK fully supports the EU's position. On 18 June, EU Foreign Ministers discussed the resumption of assistance to the Palestinian Authority. They concluded that the EU should develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance. The EU is currently working on plans for the best way for this to be delivered. In allocating our assistance, we will wish to ensure that it addresses the needs of Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank, and is subject to satisfactory fiduciary controls.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the humanitarian requirements of the displaced people in the Gereida region of Darfur following the recent withdrawal of independent aid agencies; and if he will make a statement. [145812]

Hilary Benn: The work of Oxfam and other aid agencies in addressing the humanitarian needs of the 130,000 people in Gereida was exceptional. Their withdrawal is highly regrettable but under the circumstances, they could not place their staff at such a continued risk. Since the evacuation of the other agencies the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as the only agency left, decided to cover the gaps, providing water, sanitation, food, health care, shelter and other household items to the camp and host population of Gereida. As a result of this huge expansion in services, ICRC increased their appeal by £13 million to £44 million. In response, DFID increased its support to ICRC proportionately by £1 million to £4 million for 2007.

The events in Gereida underline the fragility of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. It is only through the admirable work of aid agencies that the four million people dependent on aid in the region have had access to vital assistance and services. The deterioration of the security situation and attacks on humanitarian workers, however, are having a severe impact on getting help to those in need.

I utterly condemn the continuing violence targeting civilians and humanitarian workers in Darfur and have called on all sides to cease the violence immediately, renew the ceasefire, reinvigorate the political process and support the rapid deployment of the AU/ UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cattle: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of live calves exported since 1 January 2007 have formed part of *(a)* a consignment exported from a single farm and *(b)* a multiple pick up of consignments from several farms; [142649]

(2) what proportion of live calves exported since 1 January 2007 have been sent *(a)* from a holding of origin in the UK directly to a place of destination in another EU member state, *(b)* from a holding of origin in the UK via an assembly centre in the UK to a place of destination in another member state and *(c)* from a holding of origin in the UK via an assembly market in the UK to a place of destination in another member state; and if he will make a statement. [142650]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answers 14 June 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Climate Change: Insects

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessments have been made of the impact of climate change on the life cycle of *(a)* bees and *(b)* insect populations. [144210]

Barry Gardiner: Losses of pollinators may be just one of the signals of the effects of climate change on our ecosystem goods and services that we need to respond to. The recently published DEFRA-funded review "England Biodiversity Strategy—Towards Adaptation to Climate Change" identified potential impacts of climate change on species and habitats. The report gave an overview of the types of impacts and

their effects on a full range of species and habitats, under each of the England Biodiversity Strategy sectors, such as Agriculture or Woodland and Forestry. It did not look specifically at insect life cycles, although a few examples are given of effects on insects.

DEFRA also co-funded the MONARCH project (Modelling Natural Resource Impacts of Climate Change) which projected how the area that provides suitable climate for a particular species might change between now and 2080. Most of the insects covered in the MONARCH report (published in May 2007) were butterflies and showed a potential increase in suitable climate area. However there are clearly other insects at more northerly latitudes or higher altitudes or those that require for damp conditions that risk a loss or shift in suitable climate area.

Other research in this area is undertaken outside the Department. The previous (6th) and current (7th) EU research framework programmes have had major themes on the biological impacts of climate change. The Natural Environment Research Council draft strategy for 2007-12 lists as its principal science goal the prediction of regional and local impacts of climate change. DEFRA maintains close links with these programmes in Europe and the UK.

This is a rapidly developing field and there is a need to assemble evidence to prioritise research and adopt an integrated approach to guide policy responses. The England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Workstream and the Climate Change Adaptation Network are helping this process.

Climate Change: Publicity

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on advertising the Department's climate change campaign act on carbon dioxide; and how much has been spent on *(a)* online advertising and *(b)* television advertising. [145432]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA's climate change 'Act on CO_2' campaign was launched in March 2007.

In the financial year 2006-07, the Department spent £225,000 on online advertising and nothing on any other media, including television advertising.

Dairy Farming

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dairy farms went out of business in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many of these farms were located in Cheshire. [145110]

Barry Gardiner: Information on numbers of holdings is collected in the annual June survey of agriculture and horticulture. No information is collected on the number of holdings leaving the industry. The following figures show the number of registered holdings at June each year where dairy was the predominant activity. These figures show net change only and therefore include gains as well as losses.

Number of dairy type holdings

	England	*Cheshire CC*	*Halton and Warrington UA*
2004	13,264	887	10
2005	12,918	851	[1]—
2006	12,626	836	[1]—

[1] Suppressed to ensure the confidentiality of individual holdings.

Note:
Estimates have been made for holdings on surveyed and holdings not responding.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145292]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the spend (inclusive of VAT) by staff in the Department via departmental procurement and fuel cards in each of the last three financial years is shown in the following table:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Government procurement card	3,797,675.07	5,751,629.76	8,327,067.01
Fuel cards	15,878.28	20,203.05	10,457.36

The Department does not issue departmental credit cards—payment cards which permit the holder under the contract with the issuer to purchase goods and/or services on a credit basis.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many energy saving light bulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144945]

Barry Gardiner: The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs does not record the number of energy saving light bulbs purchased on a year by year basis.

In accordance with the Government's sustainable procurement policies and the recommendations of the sustainable procurement task force, all light bulbs purchased for use on the departmental estate are energy saving bulbs.

Additionally, any remaining tungsten lighting within the estate is being replaced with energy saving bulbs as part of the ongoing sustainability review.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many memoranda of understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by

Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144474]

Barry Gardiner: Records of memoranda of understanding (MoU)'s are not held centrally across Whitehall or centrally within DEFRA.

However, I am aware that we hold the following MoU's:

with Japan on the continuation of co-operation on research into environmental endocrine disrupting chemicals. This MoU facilitates exchange of information and joint workshops but has not lead to direct executive action;

with the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources covering cooperation on matters relating to environmental protection and sustainable development. There are no executive actions arising from this MoU;

with environment ministries or regulators in 15 countries to develop registry software for the trading of carbon allowances—Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia. In each case the MoU has been supplemented by a formal separate licence agreement with each country and officials work closely with their counterparts on the software developments including improvements to the existing operational software;

with the National Development Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs on establishing a China-UK Climate Change Working Group. The MoU identified a range of climate change science, economics, technology and policy priorities for discussion; and

between DEFRA, DTI and The Ministry of Science and Technology of the people's Republic of China. Its title is "Cooperation on Near-zero Emissions Coal Technology through Carbon Capture and Storage— Phase 1".

Its purpose is to cooperate on near zero coal technology in China through carbon capture and storage and to explore the feasibility of and options for demonstration of this technology in China. Phase 1 activities are aimed to be complete by 2008;

with China memorandum of understanding on agricultural science and technology, signed in 1980 Originally the responsibility of the Department for International Development's predecessor department. The Memorandum's sole executive action is the facilitation, with minimal funding (£10,000 a year, matched by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture), of exchange visits between British and Chinese agricultural experts in relation to selected research projects;

with China on Phytosanitary Co-operation. The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen bilateral phytosanitary co-operation, to help prevent the movement of plant pests. Under the agreement, both parties exchange information on legislation; support technical exchanges, and notify each other of any discovery of plant pests; and

a Protocol of phytosanitary requirements for the export of potato mini tubers from the UK to China, signed in Beijing in October 2006 by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on behalf of his DEFRA colleague

DEFRA does have other ministerial-level agreements with foreign Governments, such as the Sustainable Development Dialogues with Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, but these are not formal MoU's.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143884]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA does not keep centrally held records of staff who work from home and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home working commences because it enables DEFRA to both recruit and maintain a diverse work force. Home working helps staff maintain a work life balance. DEFRA is committed to helping its staff maintain a work life balance and recognises that home working can help to reduce the need to travel to work thereby removing journey time and potentially reducing overall transport congestion and pollution as well as individual stress levels. Therefore, DEFRA believes that home working contributes not just to staff welfare but ultimately to delivery of a high quality service to our customers. DEFRA supports home working and is taking steps to ensure that the necessary tools and technologies are in place to facilitate this as part of its overall policy on flexible working. Home working can include the occasional day or days taken to complete a specific task or address a particular situation and is available to all staff subject to business needs. Alternatively, it can be a permanent arrangement with regular home working days appropriate to the individual's situation.

Managers and individuals are encouraged to think creatively about working patterns so that efficient working can most easily be combined with other responsibilities and with employee's interests, responsibilities and personal circumstances.

Departments: Official Engagements

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list his official engagements with *(a)* non-governmental organisations and *(b)* private companies in the last three months. [144092]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State had the following official engagements in the last three months with non-governmental organisations and private companies.

27 March: World Wildlife Fund

29 March: Green Alliance

18 April: Range of Stakeholders to discuss Marine Policy

18 April: Syngenta

23 April: Range of Stakeholders to discuss Climate Change

23 April: Arup

2 May: Range of Stakeholders to discuss Planning White Paper

15 May: BP

4 June: General Motors

18 June: Range of Stakeholders to discuss Climate Change

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145680]

Barry Gardiner: The percentage of staff in DEFRA over 60 in the last three years for which published figures are available was as follows:

As at 1 April each year	Percentage
2003	1.66
2004	1.95
2005	1.78

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145706]

Barry Gardiner: The number of people over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 recruited by DEFRA in the last three years for which published figures are available was as follows:

	Over 55		Over 60	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2003	10	1.33	<10	—
2004	10	1.37	0	0
2005	10	2.50	<10	—

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, and those below 10 are not disclosed for privacy reasons.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many copies his Department printed of *(a)* reports and *(b)* consultation documents in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [142769]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Government have a duty to explain their policies, decisions and actions; to inform the public about their rights and liabilities; and to provide the public with advice and warnings. DEFRA publishes regular reports and consultations in accordance with these principles. The number of copies printed of such publications is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. Print procurement policy is to produce the lowest quantity of publications to meet the specific needs of each case, thereby minimising waste. Most reports are less than 1,000 copies. In the case of consultations, most are handled online and stakeholders may download a copy for local printing. Copies will be supplied to order—printed digitally—on a limited basis, if requested, as will large print and Braille versions.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143061]

Barry Gardiner: Information on sickness absences in Departments is collected by the Cabinet Office and published on their website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational health/publications/index.asp

The most recent published data available are for the calendar year 2005. The average number of working days lost due to sickness in DEFRA in 2005 and in the previous four years was as follows:

	Working days lost	Total staff-years
2001	7.4	n/a
2002	8.7	10,320
2003	8.3	7,285
2004	7.5	7,483
2005	8.2	7,313

Farmers

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers there were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979; and what proportion of the total workforce they made up. [144223]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the number of farmers and total agricultural workforce in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England and the proportion of the total UK workforce they made up for 1992-2006. These are the figures that are most readily available. Figures for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

Numbers of farmers and agricultural labour in Cornwall (inc. Isles of Scilly), the South West region and England

	Farmers	As percentage of total UK workforce	Agricultural labour	As percentage of total UK workforce
(a) Cornwall				
1992	10,027	0.0	15,509	0.1
1993	10,130	0.0	15,413	0.1
1994	9,950	0.0	15,157	0.1
1995	9,609	0.0	14,770	0.1
1996	9,665	0.0	14,827	0.1
1997	9,579	0.0	14,751	0.1
1998	9,706	0.0	15,251	0.1
1999	9,397	0.0	14,601	0.1
2000	10,612	0.0	15,612	0.1
2001	11,082	0.0	15,665	0.1
2002	10,499	0.0	14,808	0.0
2003	10,107	0.0	14,116	0.0
2004	10,467	0.0	14,461	0.0
2005	10,417	0.0	14,342	0.0
2006	10,418	0.0	14,246	0.0
(b) South West				
1992	49,932	0.2	85,738	0.3
1993	50,921	0.2	86,211	0.3
1994	51,338	0.2	85,948	0.3
1995	49,891	0.2	83,510	0.3
1996	50,152	0.2	83,628	0.3
1997	49,888	0.2	83,039	0.3
1998	50,884	0.2	83,428	0.3
1999	49,996	0.2	80,686	0.3
2000	54,200	0.2	81,235	0.3

Numbers of farmers and agricultural labour in Cornwall (inc. Isles of Scilly), the South West region and England

	Farmers	As percentage of total UK workforce	Agricultural labour	As percentage of total UK workforce
2001	57,202	0.2	83,489	0.3
2002	54,714	0.2	79,718	0.3
2003	53,061	0.2	76,205	0.3
2004	54,439	0.2	79,264	0.3
2005	54,732	0.2	79,023	0.3
2006	55,177	0.2	78,006	0.2
(c) England				
1992	213,337	0.8	420,074	1.5
1993	216,094	0.8	417,619	1.5
1994	215,010	0.8	410,809	1.5
1995	208,050	0.7	400,887	1.4
1996	207,807	0.7	396,786	1.4
1997	206,421	0.7	393,105	1.4
1998	208,156	0.7	396,957	1.4
1999	203,362	0.7	379,018	1.3
2000	220,934	0.7	374,291	1.3
2001	233,738	0.8	386,732	1.3
2002	225,521	0.7	371,824	1.2
2003	219,123	0.7	354,381	1.2
2004	224,449	0.7	367,585	1.2
2005	223,008	0.7	364,891	1.2
2006	223,769	0.7	361,017	1.1

Notes:
1. Figures prior to 2000 cover main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include main and minor holdings. A minor holding has to meet all the following conditions:
(a) have a total area of less than 6 hectares
(b) a total labour requirement of less than 100 standard person days
(c) no regular full-time farmer or worker
(d) a glasshouse area of less than a 100 square metres
(e) the occupier does not farm another holding
2. Estimates have been made for holdings not selected or not responding.
3. Office for National Statistics total labour force figures include all workforce categories (employed, self-employed, HM forces and Government supported trainees)
4. Agricultural labour force includes:
(a) principal farmers, spouses and business partners
(b) salaried managers, regular and casual/gang workers
5. Due to the introduction of new questions in 1998 figures prior to this year are not directly comparable with earlier years' results.
5. Due to a register improvement exercise in 2001 labour figures prior to this are not directly comparable with later results.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey Office for National Statistics

Farmers: Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of farmers in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK who are living below the poverty line. [144221]

Barry Gardiner: The Government's preferred measure of "low income" is income that is less than 60 per cent. of the median equivalised income for all UK households after tax. The Farm Business Survey is not able to provide figures for income net of tax and the figures below are therefore based upon a modified low income threshold of £13,800 calculated before tax. Data on farm household income are available for 2005-06 only and not at the UK level.

	Estimated number of farm households below the modified low income threshold	Estimated proportion of households below the modified low income threshold (percentage)
Cornwall	800	55
South West GOR	4,300	37
England	19,100	31

Source:
Farm Business Survey, 2005-06

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average annual earnings for farmers in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [144222]

Barry Gardiner: Information is not available in the precise form requested. The following table shows average net farm income per farm in *(a)* Cornwall *(b)* the South West Government Office Region and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1980-81. Data are not available on a comparable basis for earlier years.

Average net farm income (£/farm)

March-February	Cornwall	South West	United Kingdom
1980-81	6,289	8,496	7,013
1981-82	8,158	13,114	10,005
1982-83	10,424	10,976	11,341
1983-84	6,430	9,895	10,714
1984-85	7,683	10,996	11,817
1985-86	8,375	9,404	6,675
1986-87	5,513	9,528	10,011
1987-88	13,338	16,003	11,571
1988-89	15,401	19,083	12,319
1989-90	10,952	14,420	15,482
1990-91	7,655	11,542	14,288
1991-92	13,814	15,254	15,250
1992-93	15,237	19,541	19,166
1993-94	20,687	21,669	21,923
1994-95	13,966	21,281	24,123
1995-96	20,976	30,778	31,776
1996-97	7,413	22,785	26,027
1997-98	1,868	11,688	12,213
1998-99	-1,170	6,428	8,512
1999-2000	1,641	7,508	6,639
2000-01	3,702	6,841	8,666
2001-02	17,015	15,110	12,992
2002-03	16,070	15,079	13,728
2003-04	18,914	21,458	23,932
2004-05	11,539	17,080	17,991
2005-06	10,463	17,753	17,508

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It excludes all income arising from outside the farm business.

Fisheries: Finance

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the Government have allocated to the inshore, under 10 metre fishing fleet in the last 10 years. [142668]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* From 1997 to 2006 some £1.5 million of Government and European funds has been paid to owners for modernising fishing vessels in England.

Figures are not held separately for under 10 metre vessels.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to introduce a code of practice for tethering; and if he will make a statement. [145925]

Barry Gardiner: A code of practice on the tethering of horses will be introduced as soon as possible in line with available resources. No timetable has yet been set.

Livery Yards: Licensing

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to require livery yards to be licensed; and if he will make a statement. [145924]

Barry Gardiner: Secondary legislation, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, concerning livery yards will be introduced as soon as possible in line with available resources. No timetable has yet been set.

Pollution Control

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the senior management and *(b)* the trades union representatives of the Environment Agency on the implications for (i) pollution control and (ii) employment of field inspectors of the proposed changes in the pollution monitoring and control regime. [145850]

Mr. Bradshaw: The change from area office permitting to four national permitting centres is an operational matter for the Environment Agency. As such, it is its responsibility and the Secretary of State has had no discussions with either the senior management or trade union representatives about it.

The Agency understands that the scale of change can give rise to uncertainty for staff and has ensured that everyone in the organisation is aware of the programme of change. The Agency has full and regular consultation with the trade unions on the changes and potential impact on their members. The implementation of business changes which impact on staff is carried out in accordance with a set of principles agreed with the trade unions.

Sewers

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects the statutory instrument enabling the transfer of private sewers in the area including Lime Grove, Sittingbourne to the ownership of Southern Water will be *(a)* drafted, *(b)* made and *(c)* tabled; and if he will make a statement; [145746]

(2) what issues the forthcoming further public consultation on the transfer of private sewers to water companies will cover which *(a)* were and *(b)* were not raised in either of the two previous consultations on the transfer of private sewers; and what the reasons are for the further consultation. [145748]

Ian Pearson: In 2003, a public consultation reviewing existing private sewers in England and Wales sought views on a number of possible solutions to the problems caused by them, including the adoption of private sewers by water and sewerage undertakers.

The Government announced on 22 February that existing private sewers and lateral drains connected to the public sewer in England should be transferred into the ownership of the nine statutory water and sewerage companies. The Government undertook to consult on a range of ways transfer could be implemented and to examine how to prevent the proliferation of new private sewers. The consultation will also pose questions on the scope of assets to be included in transfer.

The consultation on implementation options will take place over the summer and will run for 12 weeks. Following this, regulations will be drafted, consulted on and amended accordingly. The timing of the process cannot be stated with any certainty, but the earliest date for regulations to be in force is likely to be summer 2008.

Water Sports: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to grant a licence to Bournemouth for the operation of the artificial surf reef. [145618]

Ian Pearson: An application to construct an artificial surf reef at Boscombe is under consideration by the Marine and Fisheries Agency and its advisers. An assessment is being made of the environmental, navigational and fisheries implications, taking into account the views of a number of consultees. A meeting has been arranged with the applicant and Bournemouth district council, to discuss aspects of the project.

Once this assessment has been completed a decision will be made as to whether to issue a licence.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of *(a)* full compliance, *(b)* partial compliance and *(c)* non-compliance by the

partner without care were recorded by the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years. [144885]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman.

Child Support: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which electoral wards in West Lancashire have the highest numbers of Child Support Agency claimants. [144966]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Children Support Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was collected in maintenance by the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993-94; what the cost of running the agency was in each year; how much he expects it to collect in 2007-08; what the expected cost is of running the agency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [145362]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply for the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was collected in maintenance by the Child Support Agency in each year since 1993-1994; what the cost of running the Agency was in each year; how much he expects to collect in 2007-08; what the expected cost of running the Agency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement.

Such information as is available, is presented in the attached table.

Child Support Agency's actual and forecast net administration costs and maintenance collections for the years 1994-95 to 2007-08

£ million

	Annual agency net administration costs	*Total maintenance collected and arranged (see note 7)*	*Estimated value of maintenance direct arrangements in place m (see note 8)*
2007-08	570.00	970.00	310.00
2006-07	520.34	882.6	276.9
2005-06	465.22	828.5	234.3
2004-05	425.59	793.2	208.5
2003-04	451.60	794.7	214.2
2002-03	428.90	572.55	—
2001-02	361.90	528.45	—
2000-01	298.30	502.55	—
1999-00	266.70	460.68	—
1998-99	231.20	393.38	—
1997-98	225.90	306.16	—
1996-97	224.50	213.21	—
1995-96	199.30	134.45	—
1994-95	192.40	74.20	—

Notes:

1. The increase in administration costs over 3 years from April '06 is as a result of the extra £120 million costs associated with the Operational Improvement Plan.
2. We are unable to provide figures for 1993-94, as audited accounts were not published for that year and as such the information is not available.
3. Information from 1994-95 to 2005-06 is sourced from the Child Support Agency's published Annual Report and Accounts, and differ slightly from the published QSS which uses monthly figures, not subjected to yea-end adjustment.
4. In 2005-06, following national Audit Office advice, the Agency's accounting boundaries were changed to include Child Support Reform Programme costs in the Agency's annual accounts. The 2005-06 accounts and the 2004-05 comparatives were changed accordingly. In line with this policy the table below includes Child Support Reform costs from 1999-00.
5. The 2006-07 net administration costs and maintenance collections may be subject to change and will be confirmed when the audited accounts are published in July 2007.
6. The 2007-08 estimate for maintenance collections is consistent with the published Agency target to collect or arrange £970 million of maintenance outcomes. The residual £310 million in maintenance will be delivered via private arrangements outside of the Agency's collection service.
7. Total maintenance collected and arranged from 1994 to 2003 does not include maintenance direct.
8. Maintenance Direct figures are sourced from Table 19.5 of the Quarterly Statistical Supplement. Maintenance Direct information is only available from April 2003 onwards.
9. The amount of maintenance received is that collected via the CSA collection service. This includes both clerical and system payments.
10. Monthly amounts of maintenance collected will not sum to the financial year figures published in the Annual Accounts as they do not include end year adjustments.
11. The value of Maintenance Direct arrangements in place shows the value of the assessments that the Agency has made i.e. the recommended amount to be paid to the Parent With Care by the non-resident parent. This value is an estimate because it is not possible to calculate, for every day of the year, the value of Maintenance Direct arrangements in place at that point in time. However, it is possible to calculate the value of weekly Maintenance Direct arrangements in place at the end of each month and derive a full monthly estimate from that.
12. Money relating to Maintenance Direct arrangements is not collected directly by the Agency. As such, the arrangement in place is the best estimate of the money being paid by the Non-Resident Parent.
13. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many liability orders the Child Support Agency *(a)* applied for and *(b)* obtained in each (i) year and (ii) quarter since 1997; how many of the original orders were inaccurate; and if he will make a statement. [145372]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many liability orders the Child Support Agency (a) applied for and (b) obtained in each (i) year and (ii) quarter since 1997; how many of the original orders have been inaccurate; and if he will make a statement.

Due to the arrangements for assigning a court hearing date, the Agency may make an application for a liability order during one reporting year which has a court date assigned for the next therefore I have given the granted liability orders for a year only.

Information about the numbers of liability order granted is only available since March 1998. Table 1 attached, shows the information requested since April 1998. We do not routinely collate information with regard to civil enforcement processes on a quarterly basis, so this information is unavailable at this time.

To ensure the Agency applies for an appropriate Liability Order, a number of management checks are undertaken prior to a Liability Order application being made, including the provision of an account audit. In a small percentage of cases the Agency may identify a case where a Liability Order has been granted but subsequently discovered an issue, which requires remedial action before further civil proceedings can be considered. These may be procedural steps, including dealing with new information received as well as numerical inaccuracies. This information is set out in the attached Table 2.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Numbers of Liability Orders granted in each year from April 1998 to January 2007

	Liability Orders granted
April 1998-March 1999	2,033
April 1999-March 2000	2,523
April 2000-March 2001	1,755
April 2001-March 2002	1,427
April 2002-March 2003	2,383
April 2003-March 2004	3,885
April 2004-March 2005	*7,760
April 2005-March 2006	*11,245
February 2006-January 2007	*13,335

Notes:
1. A liability order is a document obtained from the court showing that they legally recognise that the debt is owing. This is the same in both England and Wales and Scotland. This is required before the Agency can use litigation powers (Diligence in Scotland).
2. The figures marked with an asterix* are sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics. Prior to April 2004, the figures given were clerically collated and are actual figures, not subject to rounding.
3. Figures sourced from the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The figures for 2006-07 are from February 2006 to January 2007 and these are the latest figures published available.

Table 2: Liability Orders—further Agency work required

Quarterly period	*Percentage*
April-June 2004	2.5
July-September 2004	2.9
October-December 2004	2.6
January-March 2005	2.7
April-June 2005	3.5
July-September 2005	2.5
October-December 2005	1.3
January-March 2006	2.6
April-June 2006	2.3
July-September 2006	1.5
October-December 2006	1.2
January-March 2007	1.9

Note:
Although the software for recording data was introduced in 2003, robust information did not become available until April 2004 following remedial work by the Agency.

Children Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total staff numbers at the Child Support Agency were in each quarter since 1997; what he expects the total staff numbers at the agency to be in each quarter to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [145363]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to an earlier response given to his Parliamentary Question 141934 and 141935, published in *Hansard* on 21 June 2007; *Official Report*, column 2216W.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition the Child Support Agency uses of unfair and inappropriate when it decides not to recover debt owed by a non-resident parent. [143581]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what definition the Child Support Agency uses of unfair and inappropriate when it decides not to recover debt owed by a non-resident parent.

The 1991 Child Support Act, (Section 29) gives the Agency a discretionary power in the collection of child support maintenance, although the Agency does not have the power to write off debt owed by non-resident parer . In cases where the Agency decides not to recover debt the Agency must show that this decision is reasonable (rather than inappropriate or unfair) taking into account the circumstances of each case.

The Agency has issued guidance, for cases where there are exceptional circumstances and where the Agency would consider not collecting debt. The circumstances are not proscribed but do include, for example, terminal illness or death of a non-resident parent, parent with care or qualifying child, cases where the non-resident parent is in prison, hospital or residential care or where the parentage of the qualifying child is under dispute.

Unless there is a good reason not to do so, every effort will be made to ensure the non-resident parent fulfills their duty to pay child maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the £3.5 billion debt owed to parents with care which was due to official delay or error. [143582]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the £3.5 billion debt owed to Parents with Care which was due to official delay or error.

The Agency is unable to identify how much, if any, of the gross debt balance of £3.5 billion has been caused by official delay in processing a maintenance application.

In addition, if an official error is subsequently identified in a non-resident parent's assessment, any outstanding debt is reassessed and adjusted as necessary.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents with care were affected by a fully or partially non-compliant non-resident parent in each year since 1997. [143591]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents with care were affected by either a fully or partially non compliant non resident parent in each year since 1997.

The information that you have requested is only available in respect of cases rather than parents with care, a parent with care or non-resident parent may have more than one case. Information on fully and partially non-compliant cases is set out in the attached table.

The first year of the Operational Improvement Plan focused on the reduction of the Agency's uncleared applications. The Agency has substantially reduced the number of uncleared applications, which are at their lowest level since comparable records began in May 1999. The second year of the Operational Improvement Plan, will focus on Enforcement which will include greater focus on improving case compliance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The volumes of nil and partially compliant cases with a positive liability: 1997 to 2007

Quarter ending	*Nil compliant*	*Partial compliant*
February 1997	115,500	57,600
February 1998	116,100	63,100
February 1999	137,000	78,000
February 2000	144,100	82,100
February 2001	131,600	85,700
February 2002	119,600	77,400
March 2003	107,400	88,900
March 2004	123,200	86,900
March 2005	145,200	98,500
March 2006	148,900	129,000
March 2007	170,600	142,400

Notes:

1. Compliance of a case is measured over a three month period. If a case was open and classed as a collection service case at the end of the period, and within the period money was charged on the case but no money was collected, then the case is classed as nil compliant. If some, but not all, of the money charged was collected via the collection service, then the case is classed as partially compliant. If all of the money charged was collected via the collection service, then the case is classed as fully compliant.
2. Data as at end of March has been used from 2003 onwards. Data as at end of February has been used prior to this, as information for March is unavailable.
3. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deductions from earnings orders were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* successfully implemented by the Child Support Agency in each month since March 2003. [144786]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 25 June 2007]*: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Lady with the information requested.

Jobcentres: Chard

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the environmental impact of closing the jobcentre in Chard; and if he will make a statement. [144122]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 26 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the environmental impact resulting from the proposed closure of Chard Jobcentre. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

No specific environmental impact assessment has been undertaken. However the decision to consider Chard for potential closure has taken account of the likely additional travel requirements for both customers and staff. Consideration will be given to postal arrangements for customers who may experience particular difficulty with any future travel requirements.

We are continuing to develop our nationwide network of Jobcentres, and to review and improve our services. Advances in technology and the increased availability of Contact Centre facilities mean that increasing numbers of customers, including employers, access our services via the Internet or telephone. This will result in a positive environmental impact as the necessity to travel to attend our offices is reduced.

I hope this is helpful.

National Insurance Contributions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department has capped the level of contracted-out rebates for contracted-out appropriate personal pensions and money purchase schemes; and if he will make a statement. [141178]

James Purnell: Age related rebates for contracted-out personal pension schemes and money purchase occupational schemes were introduced in April 1997. The details are in the Secretary of State's report of March 1996, which forms part of the "Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes Review of Certain Contracting-out Terms, Cm. 3221" This approach to age related rebates has continued in subsequent rebate reviews.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what effect on costs to the public purse the Government have achieved from capping the age-related national insurance rebate to appropriate personal pension schemes for each year from 2007-08 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement; [141452]

(2) what savings are expected to result for the Exchequer from the decision to cap contracted-out rebates for personal pensions and money purchase occupational

schemes *(a)* at 7.4 per cent. rather than the previous cap level of 10.5 per cent. and *(b)* at 7.4 per cent. rather than at the levels recommended by the Government Actuary in each year from 2007-08 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [141204]

James Purnell: The effect on national insurance revenues arising from recent changes to age-related rebate rates is broadly neutral over the longer term.

New Deal

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average cost per participant was on the New Deal for young people in each year since 2001; [143573]

(2) what the average cost per participant was on the New Deal 25 plus in each year since 2001; [143574]

(3) what the average cost per participant was on the New Deal 50 plus in each year since 2001; [143575]

(4) what the average cost per participant was on the New Deal for disabled people in each year since 2001; [143576]

(5) what the average cost per participant was on the New Deal for lone parents in each year since 2001. [143577]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New Deal—average cost per participant

£

	New Deal for young people	*New Deal 25 plus*	*New Deal for young people and New Deal plus*[1]	*New Deal 50 plus*[2]	*New Deal for lone parents*	*New Deal for disabled people*
2001-02	1,337	1,175	—	—	80	299
2002-03	1,311	1,435	—	—	128	465
2003-04	1,535	1,880	—	[3]3,941	135	743
2004-05	1,658	1,879	—	[4]84	145	1,039
2005-06	—	—	1,289	[4]40	168	970

[1] There is no split currently available between New Deal for young people and New Deal 25 plus for 2005-06
[2] Participant numbers for New Deal 50 plus are only available from January 2004.
[3] Calculations for New Deal 50 plus for 2003-04 are based on starts to the programme from January to March 2004 only.
[4] New Deal 50 plus costs for 2004-05 and 2005-06 were only incurred by those people who claimed the New Deal 50 plus in-work training grant.

Notes:
1. On 6 April 2003 the New Deal 50 plus Employment Credit was replaced by the 50 plus element of the Working Tax Credit. For the period Jan-March 2004 some of those who were helped into work through New Deal 50 plus may still have been receiving the Employment Credit, which was paid for up to a year. Costs also included the New Deal 50 plus in-work training grant which some participants claimed after entering work through the programme.
2. New Deal 50 plus costs for 2004-05 and 2005-06 were only incurred by those people who claimed the New Deal 50 plus in-work training grant.
3. Costs are calculated on the total number of people participating and total spend on each programme, excluding administrative costs and include, where applicable, costs incurred in payments made to employers and Job Brokers.
4. Calculations are also based on all New Deal programme costs and allowances paid to participants apart from the 50 plus element of the Working Tax Credit, which is met by HMRC. As this is not included, New Deal 50 plus costs reduce considerably from 2004-05.
5. Following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002-03, ring fences were removed from New Deal. Calculations exclude administrative costs as it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering the costs of each New Deal separately from the costs of other labour market activities.
6. Calculations include start-up costs.
7. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001 (New Deal for Disabled People pilots ran from September 1998-June 2001).
8. Calculations are based on latest spend figures to March 2006 and New Deal programme start figures to March 2006.

Source:
DWP Departmental Reports 2004-2005, Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2005-6.
New Deal Evaluation Database, DWP Information Directorate.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been on the *(a)* New Deal for young people, *(b)* New Deal 25 plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 plus, *(d)* New Deal for disabled people and *(e)* New Deal for lone parents (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times, (v) five times, (vi) six times, (vii) seven times, (viii) eight times, (ix) nine times and (x) 10 times. [144121]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

New Deal

Number of times participants have started

	Once only	*Twice*	*Three times*	*Four times*	*Five times*	*Six times*	*Seven times*	*Eight times*	*Nine times*	*Ten times*
New Deal for Young People	847,740	231,260	72,840	19,360	3,580	390	30	0	0	0
New Deal 25plus	490,190	129,970	45,330	14,920	3,620	500	40	10	0	0
New Deal 50plus	79,330	1,570	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Deal for Disabled People	216,560	21,680	3,340	630	120	30	10	0		
New Deal for Lone Parents	516,950	159,270	49,780	15,520	4,580	1,410	380	110	30	10

Notes:
1 Latest available information on starts to New Deal is to February 2007.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal for Partners: April 1999; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.
4. Data for starts to New Deal 50 plus are only available from January 2004.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he expects to be able to take between the publication of the initial report in the summer of 2007 on pension scheme assets held by schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets to protect those scheme assets and the publication of the final report. [143543]

James Purnell: The prospective assistance provided by the Financial Assistance scheme and the current work of the review into the use of relevant scheme assets should not affect the decisions that trustees take in relation to their scheme funds.

It is not for the Government to offer advice to trustees on whether and when they should purchase annuities. Trustees must act in the best interest of their members and in accordance with scheme rules and their statutory obligations.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what survey work has been carried out to establish the retirement income replacement rate which individuals are prepared to fund by contributions from current salary in the UK. [144216]

Mr. Plaskitt: No survey work provides information in exactly this form.

The Pensions Commission estimated median desired replacement rates using information on individuals' current income and on the income individuals considered enough to live on in retirement. In addition the Commission also looked at actual replacement rates and levels of expenditure. Considering the evidence together they concluded that there could be no universal definition of pension adequacy, but used benchmark replacement rates of 80 per cent. of gross earnings for lowest earners, declining to 67 per cent. for median earners and to 50 per cent. for top earners to assess pension adequacy. (See Table 1)[1].

[1] Pensions Commission (2004), Pensions Challenges and Choice: The First Report of the Pensions Commission, Chapter four.

Table 1. Adequacy thresholds

Earnings	*Target replacement rate (Gross) (Percentage)*
Less than £9,500	80
£9,500-£17,499	70
£17, 500-£24, 999	67
£25,000-£39,999	60
£40,000 plus	50

Source:
The first report of the Pensions Commission: Pensions, Challenges and Choices, Appendices, p. 169

Both the Pensions Commission and DWP have estimated the number of people who are saving enough to reach these benchmarks utilising evidence from more than one survey. DWP current estimates indicate that around seven million people are undersaving[2].

[2] DWP (May 2006), Security in Retirement: towards a new pensions system, Appendix A.

Pensions: Advisory Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many home visits have been carried out by the Pension Service in each year since 1997, broken down by type of visit and local area. [141831]

James Purnell: The information that is available for the area of East Sussex is in the following table. I will write to the hon. Gentleman with information on the remaining areas and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Home visits carried out by the Pension Service

	Nationally	*East Sussex*
2004-05	549,369	—
2005-06	954,359	—
2006-07	897,702	9,687

Notes:
1. All visits are 'Holistic Visits' so whatever the reason for referral a full benefit entitlement check is undertaken.
2. The Pension Service Local Service was created in April 2004.
3. There are occasions when a follow up visit is requested by the pension centre to clarify some aspects of the application; however these are not recorded separately.
4. The number of visits at a cluster level is held on the Local Service System (LSS). The East Sussex cluster figures for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are not available because of data protection issues which means customer data 18 months from the date the referral is cleared.

Source
Local Service Management Information.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost has been of the Pension Service's outbound telephone campaign. [141876]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. Outbound calls from the DWP are not broken down by campaign.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the Pension Service's *(a)* method of home visits, *(b)* outbound telephone campaign and *(c)* strategy of identifying harder-to-reach customers by working with local partners on take-up of services. [141878]

James Purnell: The information that is available is in the following tables.

Effect of home visits, 2006-07

	Number
Visits made	897,702
Claims to various benefits	[1]481,434

[1] This includes claims made following Information Point appointments. There were 57,522 Information Point appointments during 2006-07.

Source:
Local Service Management Information.

Effect of the outbound telephone campaign, 2006-07

	Number
Calls made	189,434
Awards of Pension Credit	21,340

Source:
"Contacts by Channel" and "Management Dashboard" report 2006-07.

Joint Working Partnerships targeting harder-to-reach groups are currently being evaluated and the findings will be available in the autumn.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department has taken in conjunction with the financial assistance scheme (FAS) to raise the profile of the FAS among members of occupational schemes that come under its remit. [141882]

James Purnell: Since the inception of the financial assistance scheme (FAS), the main focus of our communications has been aimed at trustees and administrators in order to encourage them to apply for FAS and to supply the member data needed to make payments.

We currently provide information for members via our website at www.dwp.gov.uk/fas and we have worked with trustees on a scheme specific basis to provide information for their updates to members about the progress of the winding up.

We recognise the need to provide more clarity to members about the nature of FAS benefits, how they work and when they can expect payments. Lord McKenzie, announced in the Lords on 6 June that we are introducing arrangements so that, rather that relying on trustees to make applications on their behalf, individual scheme members who believe that they are eligible for payment can advise the FAS operational unit direct, which will then contact the scheme trustees to seek to arrange a payment.

Personal Accounts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* officials in his Department briefed *Financial Times* journalists on 13 June 2007 about the Government's plans on personal accounts; and if he will make a statement. [144078]

Mr. Hutton: No *Financial Times* journalists were briefed on 13 June 2007. There was regular communication between Ministers, special advisers and officials and our stakeholders, including journalists and other political parties, in the run up to the publication of our proposals on personal accounts.

State Second Pension

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on national insurance revenues of recent changes in the number of people contracted out of the state second pension. [141551]

James Purnell: The effect on national insurance revenues arising from recent changes in the number of people contracted out of the state second pension is broadly neutral over the longer term.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption: Foster Care

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* delays caused in adoption to fostered children going through the court process without a care order under section 31 of the Children's Act 1989 and *(b)* the disruption in the care provided to such children caused by such delays; and if he will make a statement; [145730]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of a child not being subject to a care order under section 31 of the Children's Act 1989 on the adoption process; and if he will make a statement. [145808]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government's view is that delays in relation to the adoption of a child, whether or not the child is also the subject of care proceedings, are likely to be damaging and prejudicial to his/her welfare, to the extent that it may contribute to disruption. This is the case whether it arises from delays in processes that are the responsibility of local authorities, such as the operation of adoption panels, or those that arise in the family courts.

Cache Foundation Award in Caring for Children

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils at the end of key stage 4 were entered for a Cache Foundation Award in Caring for Children in each of the last five years. [145727]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children in Care: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were forcibly removed from their parents by social services in each London borough in each of the last five years. [145218]

Mr. Dhanda: It would not be possible for local authority social services departments forcibly to remove a child of any age into their care in circumstances where parents do not consent to this. While social services departments and the police have powers to obtain emergency orders so that they can act immediately to protect a child, the Children Act 1989 does not permit local authorities to remove children from the care of their parents without referring the matter to a Court.

The number of children who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

'Children taken into care' are children who started to be looked after under the following legal statuses: interim or full care orders, and police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.

Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6,7]

Number

	[3]2002	[3]2003	[2]2004	[2]2005	[2]2006
England	7,400	8,100	7,500	7,700	7,600
London	1,310	1,740	1,540	1,550	1,570
Inner London	660	920	860	790	810
Camden	85	95	85	60	75
City of London	0	0	0	0	—
Hackney	20	45	70	65	45
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	70	40	35	45
Haringey	75	120	100	70	90
Islington	50	45	55	45	60
Kensington and Chelsea	35	30	45	30	30
Lambeth	50	45	65	80	65
Lewisham	40	65	85	80	65
Newham	75	140	85	60	100
Southwark	70	60	75	90	85
Tower Hamlets	45	40	60	85	75
Wandsworth	30	70	60	50	35
Westminster	35	95	40	40	45
Outer London	650	820	680	770	760
Barking and Dagenham	45	80	55	60	40
Barnet	45	80	65	60	55
Bexley	40	15	10	25	25
Brent	40	50	65	55	70
Bromley	30	50	55	35	20
Croydon	25	45	30	50	40
Ealing	45	70	55	75	70
Enfield	45	75	40	60	45
Greenwich	95	75	65	70	85
Harrow	10	20	20	30	15
Havering	5	20	20	20	35
Hillingdon	15	20	30	40	55
Hounslow	45	55	60	50	85
Kingston Upon Thames	10	5	10	15	10
Merton	40	35	15	30	15
Redbridge	35	30	15	15	20
Richmond Upon Thames	5	15	10	15	10
Sutton	15	10	10	35	15
Waltham Forest	50	70	40	30	50

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[3] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[4] Only the first occasion on which a child was taken into care in the year has been counted.
[5] "Children taken into care" are children who started to be looked after under the following legal statuses: interim or full care orders, and police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.
[6] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[7] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. At local authority level, data are rounded to the nearest 5 and at region level, to the nearest 10. Where the number was 5 or less (other than 0) this has been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (-).

Children: Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on co-operation between European Union countries on preventing sex offenders from gaining employment with children, with particular reference to the exchange of information on criminal records. [140660]

Joan Ryan: I have been asked to reply as the Home Office is leading UK negotiations within the EU to enhance the contents and format of the criminal records which are exchanged.

A framework decision has recently been agreed under which member states will be obliged to inform other member states of all criminal convictions imposed against their nationals as soon as possible. These provisions, which will improve and speed up existing exchange systems, will ensure that each member state holds a complete criminal record for its nationals, containing all convictions imposed by EU member states. Disqualifications arising from criminal convictions must also be exchanged where they are recorded in the criminal record. This will facilitate the taking into account of the final judgments of the courts of other member states in the course of new criminal proceedings and in employment vetting in the state of nationality.

A new Vetting and Barring scheme is being introduced under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which will focus on providing the maximum possible protection for children and vulnerable adults from possible harm from unsuitable persons in the workplace.

There will be a further opportunity to look at these issues as part of the review of criminality information currently underway.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent representations he has received on the ability of sex offenders in the European Union to move between countries and take up employment with children. [140661]

Joan Ryan: I have been asked to reply as the Home Office is leading UK negotiations within the EU to

enhance the contents and format of the criminal records which are exchanged.

I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave in response to her question on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1781W.

There have been no representations on the ability of sex offenders in the European Union to move between countries and take up employment with children to the Home Office.

City Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* GCSE equivalent examination results for each city academy were in 2006; how many pupils were entered for each subject; and how many achieved each grade, broken down by subject. [144319]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Class Sizes: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of classes in the West Chelmsford area for five to seven year olds exceed 30 pupils in size. [145617]

Jim Knight: The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities and schools to limit the size of infant classes for five, six, and seven year olds taught by one teacher to 30 or fewer pupils. The Education (Infant Class Sizes) Regulations 1998 allow the limit of 30 to be exceeded in limited circumstances. In prescribed circumstances, this allows children to be treated as "excepted pupils" for the purposes of ascertaining whether or not the class size limit has been exceeded.

As at January 2007 there was one infant class in West Chelmsford constituency with 31 pupils. However, this class did contain one excepted pupil making the class lawfully large.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 117W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, what the *(a)* start date and *(b)* end date was of each review; and on what date a final report was produced for each. [144462]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Departments: Families Unit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Minister has responsibility for the Families Unit; what its current annual budget is; how many staff it employs; what its aims are; and which organisations are the unit's strategic partners. [145798]

Mr. Dhanda: Families Unit is part of the DfES Schools Directorate. It seeks to promote the importance of the family, including support to parents, across national and local government policy development. It supports the Parents Strategy Programme—a sub-programme of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children Programme—which brings together the main areas of DfES work on parents. It has 22.6 staff and a budget in 2007-08 of £105 million. Staff in the Unit work with a wide range of strategic partners across the parenting and children services sector including: 2as1, AFCS, Coram Family, Families Need Fathers, Family Planning Association, Fathers Direct, Family Welfare Association, Marriage Care, National Association of Children's Information Services, National Children's Bureau, National Family and Parenting Institute, One Parent Families/ Gingerbread, One Plus One, Opportunity Links, Project for Advocacy, Counselling and Education, Parenting UK, Parentline Plus, Relate, Safe Ground, Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationship, The Place2Be, Time for Families, Training and Development Agency.

I lead joint work to secure coherence in, and drive forward, the Department's policies in relation to parents and families, working with other Ministers, in particular, the Minister for Schools and 14-19 Learners and the Minister for Children, Young People and Families.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland Administration. [145941]

Mr. Dhanda: The concordats between my Department and the Department of Education, Northern Ireland, and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland, are publicly available via the DfES website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/concordat/index.shtml.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145679]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is set out as follows and is at 1 April for each of the last three years.

	Percentage
2005	2.4
2006	2.6
2007	3.8

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145707]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is set out in the following tables. All numbers and percentages relate to permanent staff.

2004

	Numbers recruited	*Percentage of total recruits*
55 and over	4	3
60 and over	2	1.5

2005

	Numbers recruited	*Percentage of total recruits*
55 and over	11	6
60 and over	2	1

2006

	Numbers recruited	*Percentage of total recruits*
55 and over	3	3
60 and over	1	1

Faith Schools: Abuse

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to prevent the verbal or physical abuse of children in faith-based learning environments before the implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Scheme in 2008. [145413]

Mr. Dhanda: Safeguarding children in all communities is a top priority for this Government.

No community supports the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of children. And wherever we see abuse, in whatever context, we need to challenge it. Abuse in any community will not be tolerated. "Working Together to Safeguard Children" was recently updated and sets out clearly how individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This guidance must be followed wherever there is concern about the welfare of a child. Local Safeguarding Children Boards have an important role to play in engaging with organisations in their area, including key faith groups, with a view to safeguarding all children.

The DFES recognises the significant contribution over a great number of years that many communities make towards the education of our children, particularly children from minority ethnic backgrounds, through supplementary school initiatives.

In recognition of the many achievements of the supplementary and mother tongue school sector, DFES recently announced the establishment of a new National Resource Centre (NRC) to support and promote supplementary schools in England. The centre jointly funded by the Department and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and managed by ContinYou, will support the development of more and better supplementary schools through, in particular, the extended schools and specialist schools programme, and will help to spread good practice in all areas, including safeguarding children.

Foster Care

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many foster family arrangements in all local authorities *(a)* remained as a stable family unit and *(b)* have broken down with the children returning to care facilities in the last 12 months. [144445]

Mr. Dhanda: At 31 March 2006, 23,600 children looked after by a local authority had been in the same foster care placement for more than 365 days.

During the year ending 31 March 2006, 15,800 children looked after by a local authority moved to another placement from a foster care placement. This figure excludes children who return to be placed with their parents.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are in private foster care arrangements in England. [145764]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of children who were in private fostering arrangements notified to local authorities in England at 31 March 2006 was 980.

Free School Meals

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils attending the 200 highest performing comprehensive schools by unweighted attainment of five or more A*-C grade GCSEs, are in receipt of free school meals. [141746]

Jim Knight: The information for all schools has been placed in the Library.

GCE A-level

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students at *(a)* state comprehensive schools, *(b)* state grammar schools, *(c)* state secondary modern schools, *(d)* other state secondary schools, *(e)* further education colleges, *(f)* state sixth form colleges and *(g)* independent schools and colleges were taking at least two A-levels in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [145947]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in two or more of mathematics, further mathematics, physics, chemistry, French, German and Spanish A-levels in the latest year for which figures are available; [142985]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received three or more A grades at A-level in the latest year for which figures are available. [142975]

Jim Knight: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCE A-level: Languages

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils took A-levels in *(a)* French, *(b)* German, *(c)* Italian, *(d)* Spanish and *(e)* Russian in each year since 2000. [141416]

Jim Knight: The figures requested are in the following table.

GCE A-level entries in selected languages by 16 to 18-year-old[1] candidates, all schools and colleges, 1999/2000 to 2005/06

	French	*German*	*Italian*	*Spanish*	*Russian*
2000	15,240	7,581	585	4,516	490
2001	15,393	7,607	565	4,501	442
2002	13,599	6,367	582	4,430	415
2003	12,904	6,068	531	4,504	485
2004	12,480	5,643	516	4,650	451
2005	11,963	5,238	508	4,930	547
2006	12,190	5,534	577	5,202	522

[1] Age at start of academic year (at previous 31 August).

GCSE: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys in maintained schools were awarded (i) 5 A*-C at GCSE and (ii) 5 A*-C at GCSE including mathematics and English in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by (A) parliamentary constituency, (B) local education authority and (C) region. [143357]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Information on the performance of pupils in GCSE examinations is available on the Department's website at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml.

This provides information on the achievement of 5 A*-C grades and 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE at local authority and regional level, split by gender.

The proportion of pupils achieving 5 grades A*-C at constituency level is available at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/inyourarea/

This is not split by gender. Figures for the proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*- C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics at constituency level can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Education: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to fund and support children receiving home education. [145674]

Jim Knight: The Government believe that school is the best educational setting for most children. However, we respect the right of parents to choose education at home for their children. There is no Government funding available to support home education, nor any plans to change current arrangements. On 8 May we published draft guidelines for consultation which set out how local authorities can best support home educating parents.

National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children have joined the National Academy of Gifted and Talented Youth since July 2006. [140097]

Jim Knight: 34,436 pupils have joined the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth since July 2006.

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 498W, on primary education: teaching methods, what information his Department collects on personalised learning in primary schools in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics. [144448]

Jim Knight: As defined in the report of the Teaching and Learning in 2020 Review Group, personalised learning means taking a highly structured and responsive approach to each child and young person's learning, in order that all are able to progress, achieve and participate.

Many schools and teachers have tailored curriculum and teaching methods to meet the needs of children and young people with great success for many years. What is new is our drive to make the best practices universal across all schools, particularly for children whose needs can be the most challenging to meet. Personalised learning can therefore be described as effective day-to-day teaching and learning which is assessment-centred and which enables each learner to engage and 'own' their own learning. It can also encompass a wide range of more specific practices, such as Assessment for Learning and small group and one-to-one work with pupils.

The success of personalising teaching and learning will therefore be measured in improvements in the attainment of all pupils—especially in English and maths—in narrowing the gaps between different groups and in all reports of the quality of teaching and learning. We do not gather information on personalised learning as a separate programme or initiative, but Ofsted inspection reports, attainment data, evaluation of the 'Making Good Progress' pilots and a wide range of information sources can be used to build up a picture of personalised learning in both primary and secondary schools.

Procedures Relating to Soham Murders Inquiry

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to introduce a central scheme pursuant to recommendation nineteen of the Bichard Inquiry Report. [140279]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

A central vetting scheme created to deliver recommendation 19 of the Bichard Inquiry Report will be launched in autumn 2008.

Full information on the progress of the development of this new scheme is available in the Fourth Progress

Report on the Bichard Inquiry Recommendations (pages 45 to 49 inclusive) published by the Home Office in May 2007.

Pupils: Intimidation

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will bring forward plans to carry out research to assess best practice in (a) preventing and changing bullying behaviour and (b) supporting those being bullied in schools. [145916]

Jim Knight: As a result of the recent Education and Skills Committee enquiry into bullying, and subsequent report, and an independent evaluation of the Department's work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), the Department is in the process of assessing its overall strategy of work to identify upcoming priorities and will shortly be competitively tendering for elements of work to be carried out in the next financial year. One of these elements will be research into bullying. This will look at what strategies are most effective in tackling bullying.

The Department currently commissions Goldsmiths College London, through the ABA, to provide research aligned with policy needs. In the last financial year, the projects undertaken on behalf of the Department included reviews of disability and bullying and on bullying in the community. Research projects this year will look at how schools can best support young people displaying bullying behaviours; young people at risk of anti-social behaviour; and bullying of looked-after children. The Department has also undertaken research with young people on the subject of cyberbullying to inform and develop key, relevant messages for our planned digital information campaign.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will bring forward plans to audit how different schools across the country respond to bullying in schools. [145917]

Jim Knight: The Department currently has no plans to collect statistical data from schools or conduct a formal audit on how schools respond to bullying. As stated in the Department's recent response to the Education and Skills Committee report on bullying, there are logistical difficulties involved in asking schools to record incidents of bullying and their responses to incidents. In particular, there are issues around consistency of definition and how bullying might be reported if it continues over a significant period of time. There is also a question of how we might interpret an increase in reported incidents, which might occur as the result of an improved anti-bullying policy and new focus on openness. These complications could lead to more bureaucracy and greater workload for schools.

The Department will continue to recommend in its revised anti-bullying guidance that schools record incidents of bullying and report the statistics to their local authority. The guidance will further advise that the LA should analyse the information gathered from schools to identify any issues of particular concern. This will enable the authority to be better informed in the development of appropriate strategies to tackle bullying across its area. The data will also enable LAs to support and challenge schools in their duties to promote the welfare of pupils.

In addition, the forthcoming "Tellus 2" survey should give us more comprehensive data on young people's experiences of bullying in schools. It will be an annual survey (starting this year), covering all LAs. Data will be considered by Ofsted in their annual performance assessment (APA) of each LA's services, and could lead to Ofsted looking more closely at anti-bullying practices in a particular authority.

We are currently looking at how we might use data derived from the survey to inform future policy development. We are also working with the National Strategies to undertake some localised auditing of how schools deal with bullying. The National Strategies are identifying secondary schools with weak or ineffective anti-bullying policies and practice. Regional advisers and local authority consultants will provide support and challenge to these schools, working with them to embed good practice, as well as development of appropriate intervention strategies at both staff and pupil level. Progress on this work will be monitored and reported to the Department on a regular basis.

School Meals: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have achieved a Level 1 qualification in Providing a Healthier School Meal Service in each year since it was introduced. [145880]

Mr. Dhanda: It is estimated that the Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) "Providing Healthier School Meals Service" has been obtained by 4,405 candidates since its introduction in September 2005. This represents 1,285 candidates in the academic year September 2005-August 2006 and 3,120 candidates so far in the present academic year (September 2006-mid June 2007).

Schools: Counselling

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much will be spent on providing independent school-based counselling services for children and young people in each of the next three years; [145915]

(2) if he will bring forward plans for a comprehensive national independent school-based counselling service for children and young people who need to access it; [145918]

(3) how many children in England have access to independent school-based counselling services. [145919]

Mr. Dhanda: We believe that individual schools are best placed to decide the arrangements which should be put in place to meet the needs of their pupils; if a school decides to provide a counselling service, it is free to choose an external provider or directly to provide the service on an 'in-house' basis. The Department does not collect data on the amount spent on independent school-based counselling services or on the number of children who have access to such services.

There are already many alternative sources of help for pupils experiencing difficulties within and outside school, including learning mentors, Connexions personal advisers and Behaviour and Education Support Teams (BESTs). They can all help pupils tackle problems in schools (e.g. bullying, poor attendance) and they can provide young people with access to specialist services that treat problems such as anxiety, depression, eating problems, drug addiction and family breakdown.

Supporting the psychological well being and mental health of pupils is already a key component of school based programmes such as the National Healthy Schools programme and social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL). Through the development of comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) we are seeing increasing numbers of CAMHS teams working in more effective and innovative ways with their local schools and extended schools.

Schools: Disability Aids

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many text books are available in electronic form to enable schools to convert them to Braille; and what plans he has to make more text books available to schools in electronic form; [132924]

(2) what plans he has to make sheet music printed in Braille available in schools. [132925]

Mr. Dhanda: Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time. This includes all National Curriculum taught subjects, such as music.

With regard to the availability of text books and materials in electronic format for schools, I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W, to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown).

Schools: Languages

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary schools in England teach non-European modern languages to *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level standard. [144692]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* the provision of sport equipment, *(b)* the training of teachers in sports-related activities and *(c)* the recruitment of coaches to provide sports lessons in (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1997. [144258]

Jim Knight: Data relating to the amount of money which schools spend on sports equipment and the recruitment of coaches to provide sports lessons in schools are not collected centrally.

The PE and school sport professional development programme, part of the National School Sport Strategy, has been running since 2003 and aims to raise the quality of teaching and learning in PE and school sport for all pupils. Over 156,000 training places have been taken up on the programme since it began. Funding for the five years that the professional development programme has been running is as follows:

	Programme funding (£)
2003/04	2,000,000
2004/05	6,000,000
2005/06	10,000,000
2006/07	3,100,000
2007/08	3,000,000

Secondary Education: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the allocation to each secondary school in West Lancashire constituency was for extended schools development in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [143536]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not hold information on how much funding each secondary school in West Lancashire constituency was allocated for extended schools development in either 2006-07 or 2007-08, and the information requested can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Government have allocated a total of £384 million to local authorities in England over the period 2006-08 to support the development of extended schools. The Department for Education and Skills encourages all local authorities to devolve their extended schools funding to their schools. This should be done in line with their plan for rolling out extended schools which they will have drawn up in discussion with all their schools. Lancashire has received £3,531,061 in 2006-07 and £4,515,291 in 2007-08. We do not break down funding by parliamentary constituency.

In addition to this, schools are able to use their school standards grant to support the development of extended services. This is a wide-ranging grant that schools can use for any purpose of the school and which from 2006-07 can also be used for extended school provision. It is entirely for the school to decide how they use this funding depending on their particular priorities.

To date, good progress is being made in Lancashire towards the Government's aim of all schools providing access to extended services by 2010. Thus far, 66 schools in Lancashire are providing access to the full range of extended services of which 11 are secondary schools.

Special Educational Needs: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children aged five to 16 attending schools in the Ribble Valley are registered with a statement of special educational needs. [145961]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is given in the table.

All schools: number and percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) [1,2] as at January 2007 Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency

	Pupils with statements of SEN											
	Pupils aged [3]:											
	Under 5		5 to 10		11 to 15		16 and over		Total aged 5 to 15		Total all ages	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Maintained Mainstream Schools	[6]—	0.8	136	1.9	170	2.1	[5]—	[5]—	306	2.0	318	1.9
Maintained Special Schools	7	100.0	26	100.0	27	100.0	0	318	53	100.0	60	100.0
Non-maintained Special	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—
Pupil Referral Units	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—
CTCs and Academies	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—	[7]—
Independent Schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	0.5

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Age as at 31 August 2006.
[4] The number of pupils with statements of SEN expressed as a percentage of all pupils in the same age group attending the same type of school.
[5] 1 or 2 pupils
[6] Secondary suppression, to prevent disclosure of 1 or 2 pupils
[7] Not applicable, no schools of this type or no pupils in this age range
Source:
School Census

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of antisocial behaviour there were in Bridgend constituency in each of the last 10 years. [144307]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold records of incidents of antisocial behaviour.

Individual police forces, local authorities and housing associations as well as other bodies may keep records of antisocial behaviour that is reported to them, but these figures are not collated centrally.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders: Biometrics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he became aware that individuals subject to control orders cannot have their fingerprints and DNA taken by the police. [144963]

Mr. McNulty: It is inaccurate to say the police cannot take fingerprints or DNA from individuals on control orders. Section 1 (3) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 allows for the imposition of any obligations that the Secretary of State or the court considers necessary for purposes connected with preventing or restricting involvement by that individual in terrorism-related activity. The Government could therefore make the provision of fingerprints or DNA an obligation under a control order, if it was considered necessary and proportionate to do so. Moreover, powers to take fingerprints are governed by other legislation, such as PACE. If, for example, an individual committed an offence while subject to a control order, fingerprints and DNA could be taken in the usual way.

The proposal for the forthcoming Counter-Terrorism Bill is to provide equivalent powers after a control order is served as currently apply when arrests are made under the Terrorism Act 2000 or the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. This will provide the same police powers to retain, store and use the DNA and fingerprints of individuals on control orders and will mean that the procedures and safeguards that generally apply, also apply in control order cases.

Asylum

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, on asylum, when he expects to be able to say how many asylum seekers will be dispersed and to which boroughs. [133777]

Mr. Byrne: In the reply of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, I advised that a review of cases would be undertaken to determine whether there were circumstances which required the continued provision of accommodation in London.

There are approximately 2,000[1] cases supported in the London area under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Reviews are now being undertaken

of each of these cases to determine where they had their original support provided and if they have any special reason for remaining in London. Our current intention is to complete the review of each case by the 31 October 2007. It will only be after these reviews have been completed that we will be able to quantify the number of moves and to which local authorities they will be dispersed.

[1] This information is based on internal management information, and as such, is not published within the official statistics. Information is provisional and subject to change.

Asylum: Afghanistan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Afghan asylum seekers cited membership of the Taliban as grounds for *(a)* claiming asylum and *(b)* it being unsafe for them to return to Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [145053]

Mr. Byrne: Information about an applicant's reasons for claiming asylum is not collected centrally. The requested information could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Afghanistan are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Bicycles: Theft

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* sentenced for bicycle thefts in each of the last five years. [145442]

Mr. Coaker: Data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of people proceeded against and sentenced for theft of a pedal cycle in England and Wales from 2001 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

Number of persons prosecuted at magistrates' courts and sentenced at all courts for bicycle theft, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	*Sentenced*
2001	1,349	809
2002	1,262	799
2003	1,112	678
2004	1,011	691
2005	1,152	861

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS-OCJR, Office For Criminal Justice Reform

Demonstrations: Whitehall

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which organisations applied to mount protests in Whitehall on the afternoon of 15 June 2007; when the applications were *(a)* made and *(b)* approved; and if he will make a statement; [145793]

(2) how many *(a)* Metropolitan and *(b)* British Transport Police officers were deployed to police the protests in Whitehall on 15 June 2007; what operational instructions they were given to assist the public in accessing Whitehall and public transport; and what comments and complaints by members of the public were noted by police officers during the operation; [145794]

(3) when Transport for London was informed of the protests taking place in Whitehall on 15 June; and what operational instructions or guidance were given to Transport for London ahead of the organised protests in order to minimise disruption to the travelling public; [145795]

(4) what assessment he has made of the level of disruption to traffic, public transport and the flow of pedestrians during the protests in Whitehall on the afternoon of 15 June 2007; [145796]

(5) what monitoring was undertaken of the individual participants in the protests held on 15 June in Whitehall; what assessment he has made of the nature of the protest placards in terms of relevant statutory restrictions on inciteful language; and if he will make a statement. [145797]

Mr. Coaker: The policing of demonstrations in Whitehall is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis. I have asked the Metropolitan police to collate the information requested by the hon. Gentleman. I shall write to the hon. Gentleman when that information is available.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145295]

Mr. Byrne: The expenditure in the Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement cards and *(c)* fuel cards for the last three calendar years is shown in the following table.

£

	Government procurement card	*Travel and expense cards*	*Fuel cards*
2004	2,254,880	0	101,608
2005	11,834,369	158,750	558,156
2006	21,779,394	1,277,283	651,100

Travel and expenses cards were introduced in 2005 on a trial basis. Fuel card figures for 2004 relate only to the Arval contract which commenced that year. Figures for the previous contract could be obtained only at disproportionate cost because of changes in the accounting systems and organisational arrangements.

The Department has adopted OGCbuying.solutions pre-tendered national frameworks for the Government Procurement Card (GPC) and Government Fuel Card facilities in line with best practice. GPC is used for the consolidation of prompt and efficient payment of goods and services.

Arval Fuel Cards are available for any civil servant who need to put fuel in official vehicles on a regular basis The Travel and Expense (T&E) Cards are available to any civil servant in the Home Office who is called upon to travel regularly and would otherwise submit claims for reimbursement of personal expenses.

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145939]

Mr. Byrne: We do not have a Concordat with the Northern Ireland Executive. The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive. These are contained in Command Paper 5240 and published by the Ministry of Justice at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/mou.htm.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143100]

Mr. Byrne: Where it is available, the information requested is recorded in the following table.

	Amount paid (£)	*Number paid*	*Total staff (headcount)*	*Percentage of total work force*	*Single highest payment (£)*
2002-03	2,067,878	3,388	18,190	18.6	n/a
2003-04	2,919,953	4,082	20,994	19.4	n/a
2004-05	3,459,397	4,710	24,081	19.6	15,000
2005-06	3,612,916	5,014	25,343	19.8	15,000

n/a = Not available.

The information provided is subject to limitations. Comprehensive data for 2001-02 are not available or can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for appraisal-related bonus payments are included only for Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency (BIA). Data for the public sector Prison Service are excluded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Identity and Passport Agency (IPS) does not run an appraisal-related bonus scheme. Data recorded for performance appraisal payments relate to the previous reporting year and not the financial year in which the bonuses themselves were paid.

Data for special bonus payments are included only for the senior civil service (for the whole Department and its agencies) and IPS for 2004-05 and 2005-06 for certain bonuses where information is available. Staffing data cover those in Home Office HQ, BIA and all senior civil servants in the Department and its agencies. For 2004-05 and 2005-06, IPS staff are included. Information for 2006-07 is currently unavailable: bonuses relating to this period will be paid with the 2007 pay award later in the year.

The highest payments in each year were made to the senior civil service following recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body. Figures cannot be provided for 2002-03 and 2003-04 as they represented the highest paid amount to an individual and it is not departmental practice to provide information that could be attributed to individual members of staff.

Within the Home Office and its agencies there are separate arrangements for awarding bonuses. Staff below the senior civil service may receive annual, appraisal-related awards where their objectives were exceeded and overall effectiveness was significantly above the standards agreed for the post. Examples include demonstrating the ability and willingness to take on new and additional work or consistently exceeding key objectives that have been set. Special bonuses will be awarded for exceptional, specific work such as delivering key tasks in particularly challenging and demanding circumstances.

Senior civil service bonuses reward, provide incentives for, in-year delivery of key results. Senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report No. 62.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the uncompleted research paper IND Customer Survey. [129043]

John Reid: The work carried out as part of the IND customer survey was undertaken by MORI during the period February-April 2002. The results of this work were used internally by the Department but were not placed into a final published report. Its cost was estimated to be £60,000.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the unpublished research paper Dispersal: Facilitating Effectiveness and Efficiency. [129044]

John Reid: The work carried out by contractors as part of the report into Dispersal: Facilitating Effectiveness and Efficiency took place in the period September 2001 to September 2002. This work was used internally but not placed into a final published report, although it has now been released under the Freedom of Information Act. The cost of this work was estimated to be £137,000.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff surveys his Department has undertaken in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145261]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office Headquarters and the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) have not conducted a staff survey since 2005.

The Criminal Records Bureau conducted one staff survey in 2006 at a cost of £24,120.

Identity and Passport Service conducted one staff survey in April/May this year at a cost of £65,823.

HM Prison Service conducted one staff survey in November/December 2006 at a cost of £25,000.

Departments: Travel

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on first class travel in each year since 2004. [137025]

John Reid: The Department's accounting system does not hold information on expenditure on first class travel separately. A complete run of such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities.

Domestic Violence: Police Cautions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of cautions in domestic violence cases usually defined by prosecutors as common assault. [145065]

Mr. Coaker: There is not a specific indicator of the effectiveness of the use of cautions in domestic violence cases. However, our view is that cautions are generally not a suitable alternative to charging in cases of domestic violence. They are only used in cases where, with due consideration to all of the evidence and the relevant charging criteria, there is no other alternative.

Entry Clearances

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain received before 31 December 2006 have not yet been determined; what the principal reasons are for delay in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [140441]

Mr. Byrne: In respect of cases involving unresolved asylum claims, in accordance with information provided to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007 by the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, periodic progress updates will be provided.

In respect of non-asylum cases, as of 31 May 2007 there are about 17,600 outstanding non-asylum indefinite leave to remain applications that were received in the Border and Immigration Agency prior to 31 December 2006. These applications include those submitted under a range of immigration categories.

On the whole, these cases are not straightforward and require additional consideration. The aforementioned data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Harmondsworth Detention Centre

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of the damage to Harmondsworth Immigration Detention Centre during the disturbances on 29 November. [109676]

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the repairs and refurbishment of Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) was following the fire earlier this year; and whether the centre is planned to remain in use as an IRC. [145719]

John Reid: An initial independent review of the condition of Harmondsworth IRC has estimated that the sum of £7 million plus VAT will be required to fully repair the damage to the Centre 'as built'.

The Centre is fully insured for riot and material damage and business interruption cover. The damage to the Centre forms part of the total claim and is fully covered by insurance minus the deductible (policy excess).

Hunting

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his policy is on the enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004; [145171]

(2) what recent meetings he has held with *(a)* Chief Police Officers, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Justice, *(c)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(d)* others on the enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004. [145172]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are fully committed to enforcing the hunting ban. The Hunting Act is discussed as appropriate in meetings which the Home Office has with the police, prosecuting authorities, other Government Departments and other interested stakeholders.

Immigrants: Interpreters

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of interpreters for immigration services at St Judes, Plymouth in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [142467]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency only conducts interviews in that area in the course of operational enforcement visits or when visiting dispersed asylum seekers.

The information requested could, therefore, only be provided as a result of examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost, and would as a result of the use of telephone services still be incomplete.

Immigration Controls

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations his Department has received on the proposed new points-based system of immigration from community groups who will be affected. [134354]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the consultation for the points-based system, my Department has conducted formal research and face to face engagement with individuals and community group representatives across industry and other sectors. A total of 517 written responses were received. We continue to engage with groups representative of those affected by the points-based system. Informal consultation continues at a national regional level as we continue to develop the points-based system ahead of roll out.

Immigration: Females

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to case workers on granting leave to remain to vulnerable women who have been *(a)* trafficked from and *(b)* raped in their country of origin; and if he will make a statement. [145879]

Mr. Byrne: Where a female victim of trafficking or rape claims to fear persecution we will carefully and sensitively consider the application on its individual merits under the UK's obligations to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Rape and trafficking are forms of harm which may constitute a form of persecution. This is specifically referred to in the guidance given to case workers. Where a woman is able to demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution, she will be granted protection. Guidance for decision makers on considering asylum and human rights claims and granting leave is provided in Assessing the Claim, Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave asylum instructions, which can be found on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/asylumpolicyinstructions/

Immigration: Romania

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many expert level meetings took place between his Department's officials and the *(a)* Romanian National police and *(b)* Romanian Immigration Service in the last 12 months. [144069]

Joan Ryan: No central records are kept of such meetings, but they will take place frequently and routinely, both on a bilateral and a multilateral basis.

National Black Police Association: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Department expects to complete its analysis of the auditor's final report on funding for the National Black Police Association; if he will place copies of the auditor's final report in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [145438]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The Home Office auditor's final report has been analysed resulting in 20 separate recommendations. It would be inappropriate to make a statement at this time, as the matter remains ongoing.

Home Office audit reports are internal documents and not for publication because they are part of Home Office business and are commercially sensitive.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were successfully deported due to committal of a criminal offence in the UK following completion of their prison term in each of the last five years. [124234]

John Reid: On 14 June the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the director reported that 2784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Statistics on the deportation of foreign nationals were last published in 2002. This data are available through the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm60/6053/6053.htm.

Published information on persons removed as a result of deportation action has not been available from 2003 onwards due to data quality issues. The Border and Immigration Agency is putting in place new systems to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions he has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the implementation of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; [144342]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the likely implications for police forces of implementation of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; and if he will make a statement. [144344]

Mr. Coaker: Officials in my Department have discussed the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill, with colleagues in ACPO as well as other Government

Departments. In particular, Home Office discussions have focused on any potential impact to the police following implementation if enacted in its current form.

It is difficult to say with great certainty what impact such a Bill would have in practice, as an assessment of non-compliance has not been made. However initial estimates would suggest that additional burdens on the police would be inevitable and costly. ACPO have estimated that at a minimum for ad-hoc enforcement which does not include costs to the Crown Prosecution Service or HMCS, could be in the region of £50 million over three years, based on investigating approximately 300,000 vehicles a year. This does not include the costs of mounting an enforcement operation, but is based on the time it would take an officer to deal with the offence, such as dealing with the offender, arranging recovery of the vehicle and supervising the event. It also includes any necessary paperwork and officer time to prepare for court if that is applicable.

Without a full and proper assessment of a registration scheme and its likely impact on the police and given that there is a range of existing legislation available to the police to deal with this nuisance which is effective and being used, the Home Office strongly opposes the introduction of this particular private Member's Bill.

Passports: Fees and Charges

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of a passport was in each of the last 10 years; and what the reason was for each change. [144033]

Joan Ryan: The following table shows the fee for a standard passport at the end of each year:

	£
1997	18
1998	21
1999	28
2000	28
2001	28
2002	30
2003	42
2004	42
2005	51
2006	66
2007	72

The fees were increased in March 1998 to take account of inflation. Fees were increased in December 1999 to pay for service improvements, including the opening of an additional passport office, and a range of customer service enhancements including the creation of 24/7 call centres and extended public office opening hours, following the passport crisis that year, and to recover cost deficits incurred during the crisis.

Fees were increased in November 2002 in order to complete the recovery of deficits incurred in 1999 and to take account of increases in the cost of consular assistance to British nationals travelling abroad.

Fees were increased in October 2003 to pay for improved anti fraud measures and the introduction of the secure delivery service for passports.

Increases in December 2005 and October 2006 were a two stage increase to pay for the development and introduction of biometric passports and further improvements in security, including interviews for adult first time applicants.

The increase announced by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for October 2007 is to pay for increased costs in providing consular assistance to British nationals travelling abroad.

Police Air Support Units

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are employed in police air support units in each police authority area. [145439]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 June 2007]*: The available data are given in the following table. The officers in the table are predominantly employed either as pilots, ground crew, air observers or in administrative functions connected with air support, as well as other supporting roles. A number of police staff are also involved in these roles, but are not included in the table.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is Air[2]

	As at 31 March 2006
Avon and Somerset	7
Bedfordshire	4
Cambridgeshire	6
Cheshire	5
Cleveland	6
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	5
Devon and Cornwall	6
Dorset	11
Durham	4
Essex	8
Gloucestershire	3
Greater Manchester	22
Hampshire	6
Hertfordshire	4
Humberside	10
Kent	0
Lancashire	11
Leicestershire	3
Lincolnshire	0
London, City of	0
Merseyside	13
Metropolitan police	20
Norfolk	2
Northamptonshire	3
Northumbria	10
North Yorkshire	0
Nottinghamshire	5
South Yorkshire	11
Staffordshire	4
Suffolk	7
Surrey	8
Sussex	4
Thames Valley	9

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is Air[2]

	As at 31 March 2006
Warwickshire	3
West Mercia	3
West Midlands	12
West Yorkshire	14
Wiltshire	4
Dyfed-Powys	7
Gwent	5
North Wales	9
South Wales	5

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was provided for police air support units in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [145441]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The Home Office has provided the following sums, in capital grant for Air Support, to Authorities over the past five years. Where Consortia have bid for funding, the allocation is listed against the 'Lead' Force.

Force	Consortium	Funding (£)
Avon and Somerset	Western Counties	25,000
Bedfordshire	Chiltern	[1]—
Cambridgeshire	East Anglia	1,421,000
Cheshire		374,000
Cleveland	North East	[2]—
Cumbria		[3]—
Derbyshire	North Midlands	861,000
Devon and Cornwall		1,236,000
Dorset		222,000
Durham	North East	[2]—
Dyfed-Powys		280,000
Essex		92,000
Gloucestershire	Western Counties	[3]—
Greater Manchester		787,000
Gwent	S and E Wales	[4]—
Hampshire		
Hertfordshire	Chiltern	[1]—
Humberside		243,000
Kent		[5]—
Lancashire		
Leicestershire	East Midlands	1,491,000
Lincolnshire		[5]—
Merseyside		24,000
Metropolitan Police		7,886,000
Norfolk		[6]—
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	[7]—
Northumbria	North East	547,000
North Wales		261,000
North Yorkshire		[5]—
Nottinghamshire	North Midlands	[8]—
South Wales	S and E Wales	[6]—
South Yorkshire		392,000
Staffordshire	Central Counties	[9]—
Suffolk	East Anglia	37,000
Surrey		924,000
Sussex		67,000
Thames Valley	Chiltern	851,000
Warwickshire	East Midlands	[7]—
West Mercia	Central Counties	8,000
West Midlands		1,726,000
West Yorkshire		367,000
Wiltshire		[6]—

[1] See Thames Valley
[2] See Northumbria
[3] See Avon and Somerset
[4] See South Wales
[5] No ASU
[6] Leased aircraft
[7] See Leics
[8] See Derbyshire
[9] See West Mercia

Police High Potential Development Scheme

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Police High Potential Development Scheme. [145436]

Mr. McNulty: Policy, selection and co-ordination of the Police High Potential Development Scheme is now a matter for the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). The NPIA is reviewing the current High Potential Development Scheme alongside a wider process of developing the future strategy for police leadership, as set out in the priorities of the NPIA's published business plan.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female chief constables there are in England and Wales; what steps he is taking to encourage greater numbers of female chief constables in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [143202]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently 39 male and five female chief constables in England and Wales. The data currently available are for ACPO ranks and are previously been published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Police Service Strength in England and Wales 31 March 2006 (13/06), which is available in the Library of the House and can be downloaded from:
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306.pdf

Table 4 in the bulletin contains the number of police officers in each force in England and Wales broken down by gender and rank. Promoting policing equality and diversity is a matter for the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) working with the police service. I understand from the NPIA Chief Executive that there are a number of programmes geared to encouraging progression of staff within ACPO ranks including, HPDS (High Potential Development Scheme) and NSCAS (National Senior Careers Advisory Scheme).

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 503W and *(b)* 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 618W, on the police: road traffic control, how many dedicated traffic police officers there are in England and Wales. [145098]

Mr. Coaker: The numbers of dedicated traffic police officers are not collected centrally.

The available data are the numbers of full-time equivalent police officers primarily employed in the function 'traffic'. On this basis, there were 6,511 officers in post on 31 March 2006.

A corresponding figure for 31 March 2007 will be available when the police personnel statistics for 2006-07 are published on 26 July.

Proceeds of Crime: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been recovered by the *(a)* Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* Proceeds of Crime Department of the Serious Organised Crime Agency relating to crime in the South Wales Police Authority area in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [144884]

Mr. Coaker: In 2005-06 the Assets Recovery Agency assisted South Wales police in obtaining a confiscation order with a value of £3.3 million.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) was established on 1 April 2006. It is a national agency and does not hold figures relating to UK police authorities. In their first annual report, published on 18 May, SOCA show the approximate value of their work in the UK to recover criminal assets. These figures do not include totals of cash seizures which have been made by their domestic partners.

Security Measures

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, what assessment he has made of the progress made by the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board in each of the five core areas. [144392]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with a number of partners to progress work on the accreditation of imams; the development of leadership skills for imams and mosque officials; the inclusion of young people and women; improvement in the governance of mosques; and supporting mosques to contribute to community cohesion and to combating extremism. The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB), an independent body, is one of the key channels through which this agenda is being taken forward.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of sexual assault were reported in *(a)* England and *(b)* each of the regions (i) in total and (ii) in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last three years. [145458]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in England and in each region and is given in the table. Statistics for parliamentary constituencies are not available centrally.

Serious assaults recorded by the police in England

Number of offences

Region	*Rape*	*Sexual assault*[1]	*Total*
2003-04			
North East	555	1,383	1,938
North West	1,757	4,033	5,790
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,278	2,919	4,197
East Midlands	1,112	2,475	3,587
West Midlands	1,370	3,380	4,750
East of England	1,251	2,774	4,025
London	2,575	5,832	8,407
South East	1,633	4,118	5,751
South West	1,201	2,558	3,759
England	12,732	29,472	42,204
2005-05			
North East	578	1,201	1,779
North West	1,836	3,693	5,529
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,335	2,433	3,768
East Midlands	1,141	2,476	3,617
West Midlands	1,574	3,012	4,586
East of England	1,290	2,424	3,714
London	2,453	4,985	7,438
South East	1,966	3,874	5,840
South West	1,266	2,297	3,563
England	13,439	26,395	39,834
2005-06			
North East	690	1,236	1,926
North West	1,807	[illegible]	5,062
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,438	2,442	3,880
East Midlands	1,200	2,287	3,487
West Midlands	1,552	2,825	4,377
East of England	1,430	2,203	3,633
London	2,404	4,486	6,890
South East	2,113	3,573	5,686
South West	1,200	2,198	3,398
England	13,834	24,505	38,339

[1] Includes recorded offences of indecent assault on a male or female and sexual assault on a male or female.

Note:

The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Sexual Offences: Detection Rates

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual offences in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [143953]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the tables.

Data are available for 1997 calendar year and from 1998-99 in financial years. This followed a revision to the counting rules for recorded crime and the expanded coverage which came into effect on 1 April 1998. The figures were also affected by the revised detections guidance issued in April 1999 which formalised detection procedures, placing a greater emphasis on the evidential basis on which detections can be claimed. They were also affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which required the police to record a crime unless there was

"no credible evidence to the contrary".

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 also altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences, in particular, indecent exposure is now classified as a sexual offence. All these changes mean that detection rates are not comparable over this time period.

The existing statistical evidence suggests that both the changes to detections guidance and the introduction of NCRS had a marked impact in reducing detection rates for sexual offences since 1997. The Home Office is currently researching in detail recent changes in detection rates in rape cases in England and Wales, including variation between forces. This is expected to be published shortly.

New performance management arrangements have been introduced for the police and CPS on the investigation and prosecution of rape. The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers are also providing operational support to police forces on the implementation of recommendations from Without Consent, the rape inspection published in January 2007.

Table 1: Detection rates[1] for rape offences by police force area

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000[2]*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	86	74	62	43	27	22	21	18	22
Bedfordshire	70	56	43	34	25	29	21	23	23
Cambridgeshire	79	62	56	50	46	29	15	21	22
Cheshire	100	98	87	86	81	48	29	28	28
Cleveland	89	91	73	59	65	41	31	22	38
Cumbria	97	93	91	70	74	64	30	30	35
Derbyshire	93	73	52	38	39	35	33	31	30
Devon and Cornwall	92	89	96	77	49	30	19	26	18
Dorset	94	78	50	36	39	25	17	17	17
Durham	93	95	85	91	n/a	68	71	60	26
Dyfed-Powys	95	91	89	109	76	91	25	35	18
Essex	79	65	64	50	33	32	29	27	25
Gloucestershire	89	69	66	70	57	31	28	29	19
Greater Manchester	85	74	64	58	55	46	32	30	31
Gwent	100	91	92	98	93	80	78	52	40
Hampshire	79	99	65	58	53	41	34	26	21
Hertfordshire	88	96	78	66	62	50	50	38	41
Humberside	65	58	33	37	33	23	20	22	23
Kent	92	85	90	57	56	38	27	22	22
Lancashire	91	83	79	53	47	52	35	37	35
Leicestershire	72	43	37	37	n/a	26	28	23	19
Lincolnshire	124	82	87	67	50	40	28	31	24
London, City of	0	0	0	50	22	100	0	0	0
Merseyside	90	78	69	66	53	47	43	35	24
Metropolitan Police	58	32	28	24	27	29	33	25	36
Norfolk	68	94	37	35	36	24	18	21	23
Northamptonshire	96	82	95	70	64	53	37	32	33
Northumbria	85	68	61	50	43	36	30	25	29
North Wales	89	92	85	59	35	26	29	27	25
North Yorkshire	87	105	62	73	59	43	41	41	34
Nottinghamshire	83	55	46	51	36	34	27	36	27
South Wales	99	93	88	91	90	62	53	60	29
South Yorkshire	96	79	88	75	72	40	38	30	24
Staffordshire	86	68	39	38	35	40	32	30	26
Suffolk	74	73	29	36	30	30	26	21	25
Surrey	56	48	45	28	42	32	35	26	32
Sussex	80	55	47	34	35	26	24	15	21
Thames Valley	90	59	52	26	32	27	18	24	22
Warwickshire	79	79	55	52	30	27	19	25	19
West Mercia	91	87	64	56	44	37	35	31	27
West Midlands	77	68	59	53	45	41	32	25	29
West Yorkshire	90	83	76	71	55	42	31	25	25
Wiltshire	96	73	68	31	46	37	41	32	30

n/a = Not available.
[1] Offences detected in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year, so some percentages may exceed 100.
[2] Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.
[4] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Table 2: Detection[1] rates for other sexual offences (excluding rape) by police force area

Police force area	*1997*	*1998/99[2]*	*1999/00[3]*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03[4]*	*2003/04*	*2004/05[5]*	*2005/06*
Avon and Somerset	76	68	62	48	33	29	29	22	29
Bedfordshire	70	54	55	57	45	44	29	41	31
Cambridgeshire	71	67	74	60	51	38	32	30	31
Cheshire	94	90	84	87	79	58	49	40	35
Cleveland	77	78	85	81	85	69	60	51	47
Cumbria	90	88	87	86	72	57	51	46	51
Derbyshire	80	79	66	55	66	48	49	37	33
Devon and Cornwall	84	87	90	82	62	48	39	33	33
Dorset	82	75	67	58	53	47	33	31	35
Durham	91	80	93	81	n/a	59	77	69	37
Dyfed-Powys	94	96	95	93	95	91	52	46	48
Essex	68	64	67	57	55	43	40	36	31
Gloucestershire	80	69	72	67	64	42	38	35	34
Greater Manchester	70	72	65	62	58	54	46	30	35
Gwent	95	87	94	91	90	83	81	57	48
Hampshire	79	102	76	66	62	59	44	36	31
Hertfordshire	69	80	72	65	75	54	55	41	43
Humberside	66	60	43	46	38	41	33	30	37
Kent	85	80	78	59	59	49	43	29	32
Lancashire	81	76	75	62	52	61	48	41	44
Leicestershire	78	63	58	46	n/a	35	33	28	33
Lincolnshire	124	84	78	73	68	33	40	41	38
London, City of	74	59	40	38	67	45	35	44	45
Merseyside	81	72	66	69	56	53	47	41	38
Metropolitan Police	62	46	34	33	34	34	35	25	34
Norfolk	91	82	72	51	50	37	46	38	68
Northamptonshire	92	81	84	81	70	53	62	52	39
Northumbria	71	68	58	58	52	51	49	35	47
North Wales	90	93	90	67	58	38	45	42	46
North Yorkshire	77	87	71	74	69	59	54	50	51
Nottinghamshire	76	62	57	47	46	48	46	47	48
South Wales	87	86	84	82	78	59	52	36	34
South Yorkshire	82	84	78	77	67	51	53	38	35
Staffordshire	80	68	37	40	39	55	52	41	36
Suffolk	85	75	72	60	54	57	40	43	45
Surrey	69	110	59	45	45	43	44	34	36
Sussex	76	60	57	48	50	43	41	31	37
Thames Valley	76	61	53	49	44	34	36	29	34
Warwickshire	93	78	62	51	60	48	34	42	42
West Mercia	82	79	69	61	51	49	50	41	48
West Midlands	68	63	60	54	55	44	38	30	34
West Yorkshire	84	74	80	73	67	55	39	32	28
Wiltshire	84	87	68	40	52	42	42	37	41

n/a = Not available.
[1] Offences detected in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year, so some percentages may exceed 100.
[2] Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.
[4] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Sexual Offences: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to prevent registered sex offenders using social networking sites to access or groom children. [145035]

Mr. Coaker: We published the 'Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders' on 13 June. The review lists a number of actions to be taken, including providing for registered sex offenders to be required to notify the police of their e-mail addresses. This information could then be used to help with the management of offenders. In the review, we also recognised the need to develop the capability to monitor the online activities of child sex offenders, and we will investigate the possibility of developing software to install on offenders' computers to do this.

Sexual Offences Preventions Orders (SOPOs), introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, are intended to protect the public, including children, from the risks posed by sex offenders, by imposing prohibitions on them. For example, a prohibition could be imposed on an offender to stop him using social networking sites. Failure to comply with such a prohibition would be a criminal offence, punishable by up to five years' imprisonment.

We have also set up a working group which includes representatives from social network providers, law enforcement and children's charities, to look at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites and develop good practice guidelines.

Sexual Offences: Police Cautions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many official cautions were issued for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual offences in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England in each year since 1997. [143924]

Mr. Coaker: Decisions on cautioning are entirely an operational matter for local police forces. Serious sexual offences are very unlikely to be suitable for a caution. In a small number of cases local police and CPS may decide that it is not in the public interest to take a case to court (e.g. where a 16-year-old boy has consensual sex with his 15-year-old girlfriend).

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants cautioned for rape and other sexual offences in the relevant police force areas in England between 1997 and 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Number of offenders cautioned for rape offences in the relevant police force areas and in England between 1997 and 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*	*Rape offences England*
1997	0	3	3	3	0	0	26
1998	1	1	2	3	3	4	25
1999	0	3	3	1	1	1	32
2000	0	1	2	0	0	8	37
2001	0	2	1	0	2	2	39
2002	0	4	1	0	2	3	31
2003	0	1	1	1	2	5	39
2004	0	2	4	0	1	2	40
2005	0	0	0	0	0	2	22

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes data from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2003.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of defendants cautioned for sexual offences not including rape in certain police force areas and England, 1997 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*	*Other sexual offences England*
1997	21	30	49	7	38	26	1,782
1998	25	24	51	16	36	26	1,596
1999	14	29	39	18	18	21	1,346
2000	12	16	36	22	18	26	1,175
2001	22	23	26	10	15	28	1,143
2002	37	16	30	6	13	20	1,091
2003	19	19	30	11	29	28	1,226
2004	27	22	30	27	38	41	1,424
2005	13	32	40	27	30	28	1,643

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes data from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2003.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Sexual Offences: Wales

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of sexual assault were reported in Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last three years. [145460]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in Wales and is given in the table. Statistics for parliamentary constituencies are not available centrally.

Serious assaults recorded by the police in Wales

Number of offences

	Rape	*Sexual assault* [1]	*Total*
2003-04	514	1,308	1,822
2004-05	560	1,240	1,800
2005-06	595	1,166	1,761

[1] Includes recorded offences of indecent assault on a male or female and sexual assault on a male or female.

Note:
The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, on speed limits: cameras, by what means his Department estimates the time spent by police on road policing in each year. [145658]

Mr. Coaker: No meaningful estimate would be possible. Officers whose main function is traffic may undertake other duties too, and all officers can undertake roads policing duties from time to time as appropriate in their normal course of work.

Stop and Search: Vehicles

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1518-20W, on stop and search: vehicles, when the figures on vehicle stop and searches for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 will be available; whether these figures are available for the Metropolitan Police; and if he will make a statement. [145415]

Mr. McNulty: The 2005-06 annual statistical bulletin 'Arrest for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE', which includes information on stop and searches, will be published later this year.

Once the bulletin is issued a breakdown of published data covering 'vehicle only' searches will be published; at this time figures will also be available by force area.

2006-07 data will be made available in 2008.

Vehicle Number Plates

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of drivers falsely accused of motoring offences because of the fraudulent cloning of number plates in the latest period for which figures are available; [144799]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of drivers falsely accused of motoring offences due to inaccuracies in the automated number plate recognition database in the latest period for which figures are available; [144800]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of motoring offences that the police have been unable to pursue due to inaccuracies in the automated number plate recognition database. [144801]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to estimate the number of drivers falsely accused of motoring offences because of the fraudulent cloning of number plates; the number of drivers falsely accused of motoring offences due to inaccuracies in automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) databases or the number of motoring offences that the police have been unable to pursue due to inaccuracies in the ANPR database as these figures are not collected centrally. ANPR is used as the starting point to investigate offences and is not in itself used to press charges or comment on prosecutions.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of the pilot scheme Operation Laser using automatic number plate recognition; which police forces are participating in the pilot scheme; and if he will make a statement. [145435]

Mr. McNulty: Since the first Home Office pilot began in 2002, the police use of ANPR technology has resulted in more than 50,000 arrests; ANPR has now been rolled out across all police forces in England and Wales. Significantly, in the last three years it has delivered two to three times more 'offences brought to justice' (OBtJ) when compared to conventional policing methods. Much of this success is attributable to police intercept teams operating at the roadside although more recently, the benefits of ANPR as a police-intelligence and investigation tool has been realised by its ability to identify vehicles linked to many different types of criminal offending. It has consistently impacted on criminal activity at all levels, but particularly that involving drugs, cross-border crime and disqualified driving. With the help of new enabling-legislation, police ANPR intercept teams have been extremely effective in seizing vehicles for document offences.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) assumed policy and operational oversight for ANPR from April this year. It is now seeking to embed the learning from the ANPR pilots into mainstream policing practice within police forces.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of crimes involving number plate fraud in the latest period for which figures are available. [144797]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not centrally available

Vehicle Number Plates: Legal Opinion

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he has received on the legality of automatic number plate recognition systems. [145434]

Mr. McNulty: All data gathered by the police using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) are covered by existing legislation. Home Office officials have been working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to ensure that information collected by ANPR technologies and retained by the police is cognisant of the relevant data protection legislation. The ACPO guidance is designed to ensure that the principles detailed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are followed by all police forces.

Vehicle Number Plates: Theft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the level of number plate theft in the latest period for which figures are available. [144798]

Mr. McNulty: Latest published figures from the 2004-05 British Crime survey show that number plates were stolen in 1.9 per cent. of all thefts from vehicles, and in 5 per cent. of thefts where vehicle external fittings were stolen.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how money which has been sent to detainees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre is *(a)* secured and *(b)* accounted for; and how many complaints were made about missing amounts in each of the last three years. [144846]

Mr. Byrne: Detainees at Yarl's Wood hold their own money in possession. The centre has facilities to store monies and valuables on their behalf should they require it. There have been no complaints recorded relating to missing money.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the treatment of detainees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in terms of *(a)* access to medical records, *(b)* curtailment of effective visiting time, *(c)* quality of food and service of food, *(d)* choice in the provision of sanitary products, *(e)* treatment of visitors, *(f)* availability of telephone and fax services, *(g)* access to advice and information and *(h)* availability of stationery and postage stamps; and if he will make a statement. [145164]

Mr. Byrne: The provision of services to detainees at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre is subject to self audit by Serco which operates the centre under contract to the Border and Immigration Agency. The self audit process is in turn audited by Border and Immigration Agency staff and is subject to routine monitoring and scrutiny by the Border and Immigration Agency managers in the site monitoring team. There is also an Independent Monitoring Board that has unrestricted access to the centre 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and also has direct access to the Secretary of State's office. The establishment is also subject to regular inspection by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons. Whenever issues arise concerning the provision of services including those listed in the question, both the on site Border and Immigration Agency staff and the contractor are committed to resolving concerns and improving systems accordingly. Since 26 April 2007 Serco has only received one complaint, this was in relation to the availability of telephone and fax services, and this was addressed immediately.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 27 June 2007

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children: Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has issued on the application of the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 to chaperones of children involved in performances under *(a)* formal and *(b)* informal arrangements. [145673]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which will be implemented from autumn 2008 provides the legislative framework to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

Child chaperones will be covered by the requirements of the Act if they are supervising, caring for or offering advice, guidance or instruction to the children and they do so frequently or intensively. This includes both paid employees and volunteers. The requirements of the Act do not extend to parents, so a parent chaperoning their own child taking part in a performance will not be affected by the new requirements.

An individual who is barred under the new scheme will commit an offence if they seek to engage in this activity and an employer will commit an offence if they seek to use such a person.

The Government will be issuing guidance next spring in preparation for planned implementation from autumn 2008.

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what tax relief can be claimed by sponsors of academy schools on £2 million contributions. [140970]

Jim Knight: Where an academy sponsor makes the payment wholly and exclusively for the purposes of their trade and does not receive a capital asset in return, they are entitled to a deduction in their business profit and loss account. As academy schools are charities, any sponsorship payment that could not be claimed as an allowable expense would normally qualify for tax relief as a charitable donation. Payments made to academy schools by educational charities would be treated as charitable expenditure by the sponsoring charity.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many GCSEs are a *(a)* GCSE short course, *(b)* GCSE double award, *(c)* intermediate level GNVQ, *(d)* GCE AS-level, *(e)* GCE A-level, *(g)* BTEC, *(h)* NVQ, *(i)* level 2 basic skills certificate, *(j)* level 2 key skills certificate, *(k)* Cache Foundation Award in Caring for Children and *(l)* international GCSE considered to be equivalent for the purposes of GCSE performance tables. [145726]

Jim Knight: A short course GCSE is equivalent to half a GCSE. A GCSE double award is equivalent to two GCSEs, an intermediate GNVQ equivalent to four GCSEs, an AS level to two GCSEs. A levels and international GCSEs are not included in the Key Stage 4 Achievement and Attainment Tables. Other qualifications can vary according to the subject. Complete information on the equivalence of all qualifications used in the Achievement and Attainment Tables is published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the National Database of Accredited Qualifications at

http://www.ndaq.org.uk/

Home Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to collect information on the number of children educated at home. [146051]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information about the number of children whose education is arranged by their parents and we have no plans to change this. A recent study on the prevalence of home education in England, conducted by York Consulting estimated that there were around 16,000 children being educated at home that were known to the local authority. We have not made any estimate of the number of home educated children that are not known to their local authority.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many employers have participated in the development of the *(a)* Construction and Built Environment Diploma, *(b)* Engineering Diploma, *(c)* Creative and Media Diploma, *(d)* Land-based Environmental Diploma, *(e)* Business, Administration and Finance Administration Diploma, *(f)* Hospitality and Catering Diploma, *(g)* IT Diploma and *(h)* Manufacturing and Produce Design Diploma. [144990]

Mr. Dhanda: Exact figures for each DDP are not readily available. Each DDP has consulted with around 1,000 employers, meaning that for the first phase, 5,000 employers have participated in the development process. The same process is being used for the development of the phase 2 Diplomas, and this will involve similar numbers.

It must be stressed that this number is based on the number of employers that have actively responded on Diplomas via forms/email/ or one to one telephone conversations.

TRANSPORT

Railways: Brighton

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the future of rail services from Brighton to Ashford International over the next five years. [145801]

Mr. Tom Harris: Provision of these services is a contractual requirement of the Southern franchise. They will continue. The Southern franchise is due to be re-let from December 2009. There will be a further opportunity for consultation at that time.

Railways: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to reduce overcrowding on trains between Chelmsford and Liverpool Street Station. [145932]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State announced on 14 March 2007 that the high level output specification, to be published in the July, will include a commitment to a thousand extra carriages. They will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to monitor the change in the number of fixed speed cameras resulting from the new guidance effective from 1 April. [145767]

Dr. Ladyman: As from 1 April the deployment of safety cameras has been a local matter and the number of cameras will therefore be a local decision. The Department plans to monitor the general activities of the road safety partnerships but will not centrally hold the number of cameras.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will adopt a policy of carbon neutrality; and if he will make a statement. [145048]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary Estate Energy and Water Saving Policy is reviewed every two years and is next due for review later this year. The latest government sustainability targets which included the target, 'Central Government's office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012', were announced in June 2006 and will be considered when making the review.

Flowers

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what the total *(a)* volume and *(b)* value of flowers purchased by the House was in each year since 2001; [145050]

(2) what *(a)* type and *(b)* country of origin of the flowers purchased by the House for use in (i) banqueting facilities and (ii) other areas of the Commons Parliamentary Estate was in the last calendar year for which figures are available. [145051]

Nick Harvey: Some details of costs of flowers purchased are only readily available for the last four years following a change in the accounting system in 2003. No record is kept of volumes of flowers purchased by the House. The cost of flowers purchased for banqueting is recharged to the customer with the appropriate margin. The value of flowers purchased is in the following table.

	Banqueting—cost of flowers for resale	*Catering outlets*	*Public areas*	*Total other areas*	*Total cost of flowers purchased*
2000-01	—	7,497	—	—	—
2001-02	—	8,378	—	—	—
2002-03	—	8,801	—	—	—
2003-04	13,922	9,457	15,862	25,319	39,241
2004-05	14,886	11,513	13,727	25,240	40,126
2005-06	12,676	9,477	20,077	29,554	42,230
2006-07	16,513	10,825	20,674	31,499	48,012

No record is kept of the type or country of origin of flowers purchased for use in the House of Commons, banqueting facilities or other areas.

Palace of Westminster: Repairs and Maintenance

Jim Dowd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for how long the Commission expects Commons Court to be used for contractors' buildings. [145665]

Nick Harvey: The programme of large maintenance projects in the Palace of Westminster indicates that Commons Court will be required for contractor accommodation for the foreseeable future. It is currently being used by contractors for the Press Gallery refurbishment project. Planned works include the roofs programme and mechanical and electrical service modernisation programme.

Parliament: Security

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) whether there are any plans to replace the visitor stickers issued to visitors on the Parliamentary Estate with another form of temporary pass; [145572]

(2) what steps are being taken to address the littering caused by discarded visitor stickers in and outside the immediate vicinities of the Parliamentary Estate; and if he will make a statement; [145579]

(3) what steps are being taken to address the environmental impact of discarded visitor stickers on the Parliamentary Estate. [145580]

Nick Harvey: The main step being taken to reduce the environmental impact of discarded visitor stickers is for them to be removed by the contract cleaners and receptacles are provided at exit points for the stickers.

Parliament's cleaning contractor has been instructed to remove all discarded stickers in the immediate vicinity of the Parliamentary Estate, including the Portcullis House colonnade. The company also cleans the area within and including the Corus barriers to the West of the Palace of Westminster. The contract manager has been reminded of the need for frequent cleaning.

A new access control system for the Parliamentary Estate will be introduced in the autumn. Part of this project is to introduce an improved Visitor Management System, which is currently in development. The intention is to provide a paper visitor pass clipped to the person instead of the stickers used at present.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many visitor stickers were used on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the last 12 months. [145581]

Nick Harvey: An estimate of the number of visitor stickers used on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the last 12 months based on number of visitors counted through search points is in the following table.

	2006	*2007*
June	102,896	—
July	108,080	—
August	114,161	—
September	119,778	—
October	92,730	—
November	94,911	—
December	45,853	—
January	—	75,691
February	—	72,312
March	—	85,491
April	—	62,853
May	—	92,463

Note:
These figures are based on numbers provided by the Metropolitan Police using counting devices at search points. The counting device at Norman Porch is proving unreliable due to an ongoing technical fault, so Visitors Tour figures have been used instead. There may be a slight under-estimate due to Members or Peers guests using Norman Porch who will not be included in the Visitor Tour figures.

Television

Jim Dowd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many television licences are held across the Commons Parliamentary Estate. [145664]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate holds one Multiple Form Television Licence for all the private residences on the Estate.

Black Rod's residence
Staff Superintendent's residence
Serjeant at Arms' residence
Office Keeper's residence
Head Office Keeper's residence
Senior Office Keeper's residence
Clerk of the House's residence
Speaker's Housekeeper's apartment
Speaker's Secretary's residence
The Lord Chancellor's House
The Speaker's House
22 John Islip Street

The working areas of the estate are currently exempt from requiring a licence because buildings used by and occupied by Government or Parliamentary employees do not need a television licence for televisions used for official purposes.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146334]

Mr. Thomas: The total spend on consultancy contracts by the Department for International Development (DFID) since 2000 is as follows:

Total spend on consultants	
	£ million
2000-01	284
2001-02	273
2002-03	274
2003-04	270
2004-05	276
2005-06	255
2006-07	270

This includes both consultancy to deliver parts of the aid programme where services are often provided to third parties such as recipient Governments, and consultancy to DFID as an organisation. It does not include all low value contracts issued by DFID Departments and overseas offices, of which there are no consolidated records. We do not hold a central record of spend of management consultants as a separate category. These figures therefore contain spending on all types of consultancy.

The following table provides details of consultants, work undertaken and total contractual value in excess of £10 million.

Consultant name	Case title	Country	Contract value (incl. amends) (£)
ActionAid	Support to the International Partnership Against Aids in Africa	Africa Regional	20,136,150
Adam Smith International Ltd.	Strengthening Counter Narcotics Institutions of Afghanistan	Afghanistan	12,709,007
Agresso Ltd.	ARIES—Implementing partner/software supplier	United Kingdom	13,366,063
Arcadis BMB	Eastern Cape Provincial, District and School Development Programme	South Africa, Republic of	15,768,778
	Consultancy Services to Act as Basic Services Fund Secretariat	Sudan	16,249,638
ATOS Consulting Ltd.	Financial Management Reforms Programme	Bangladesh	20,593,617
British Council (UK)	Security, Justice and Growth Programme	Nigeria	27,802,647
	Support to Universal Basic Education	Nigeria	15,289,715
CARE International UK	Manusher Jonno Programme	Bangladesh	12,686,874
Charles Kendall and Partners Ltd.	Procurement Service Provider for Integrated Provincial Support Programme 2 (IPSP2)	South Africa, Republic of	13,372,432
	Procurement Service Provider for the HIV/AIDS and Health Multisectoral Support Framework	South Africa, Republic of	18,190,000
Chemonics	Promoting Opportunities for Poor People through a Commodity and Service Markets Programme	Nigeria	15,137,223
Control Risk Group	Armed Protection Team	Iraq	11,733,383
Deloitte and Touche South Africa	Consolidation of Municipal Transformation Programme	South Africa, Republic of	13,100,000
Emerging Markets Group (EMG) Ltd.	Management Company for Business Linkages Challenge Fund	United Kingdom	19,145,190
Family Health International	Strengthening the Response to HIV/AIDS (Implementation Phase)	Nigeria	21,013,815
Futures Group Europe Ltd.	Implementation of the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care (HAPAC) Project, Phase III	Kenya	19,546,347
Health Partners International Ltd.	Reviving Routine Immunisation in Northern Nigeria	Nigeria	18,665,000
Helm Corporation Ltd.	Managing At The Top—Public Service Capacity Building	Bangladesh	13,062,188
HLSP Ltd.	Support for the Partnership for Transforming Health Services	Nigeria	50,966,606
	Strengthening Support for Care and Mitigation of HIV/AIDS	Zambia	10,319,603
HTSPE Ltd.	Support to the State and Local Government Project	Nigeria	25,338,471
	To Manage a Programme of Advisory and Support Services for Rural Livelihoods Department DFID	Non Specific Country	14,968,990
Maxwell Stamp plc	Chars Livelihoods Programme: Concept and Management	Bangladesh	46,592,246
Natural Resources International Ltd.	Forestry Research Programme Management Contract	Global (Non Project Specific)	10,466,281
	Crop Protection Research Programme Management Contract	Global (Non Project Specific)	15,576,427
Population Services International	Support to Promoting Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction	Nigeria	52,800,000
	Advice on social marketing for Insecticide Treated Nets (SMARTNETS)	Tanzania	14,888,605
PricewaterhouseCoopers	State Owned Enterprises Restructuring and Enterprise Development Project—China	China	11,512,869
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd.	Humanitarian Services Contract	Global (Non Project Specific)	11,853,115
	Humanitarian Services To DFID and the Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit	United Kingdom	11,729,000
University of Edinburgh (CTVM)	Animal Health Research Programme Management Contract	United Kingdom	11,067,000
WSP International Ltd.	PEC: Bangladesh Institutional Development Component 3	Bangladesh	13,976,682

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European

Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146093]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has a core department of 21 staff working exclusively on European Union (EU) aid policy and implementation. This includes one post in the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Union (UKREP, Brussels). DFID also fields 18 seconded national experts, of which 17 work directly with the European Commission in Brussels and one with the current presidency. A small number of additional DFID staff have been seconded to European Commission delegations in Africa. In addition, a variety of other departments in DFID deal with specific issues to which EU policy is relevant, including: trade, migration, aid effectiveness, climate change, and preparation of the EU-Africa Strategy. None of these other departments are exclusively EU focused. DFID does not have a mandate for enforcing compliance with EU decisions.

JUSTICE

Prisons: Costs

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average annual cost of a prison place is in *(a)* each prison establishment, *(b)* privately-run prisons and *(c)* publicly-run prisons. [142702]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures provided are for 2005-06 and are taken from HM Prison Service Annual Report and the Office of Contracted Prisons Annual Report.

(a) The establishment costs per place are listed as shown.

(b) The average cost per place of the private prisons is £33,722

(c) The average cost per place of the public prisons is £28,486.

The costs quoted for privately-run and public prisons are not directly comparable, because of different financing structures and differences in services funded by other Government Departments. The public prisons' costs quoted are the direct costs of each establishment and exclude Prison Service headquarters, depreciation and cost of capital charge on land and buildings, major maintenance and rates. The private prison costs are the direct cost of each establishment, including controllers and exclude depreciation, cost of capital charge/credit, repayment of capital, and rates.

There are also a number of factors which affect the costs of prisons and so comparisons must be made with caution. These factors include: the size of prison, its age, its design, the occupancy level, the prison security level, the type of prisoner and the activities carried on in the prison.

Public prisons costs per place

Establishment	*Cost (£)*
Male category B prisons (8)	
Albany	23,190
Garth	26,284
Gartree	23,477
Grendon	27,591
High Down	26,670
Kingston	31,359
Parkhurst	33,961
Swaleside	21,111
Average	25,881
Male category C prisons (36)	
Acklington	17,490
Ashwell	20,525
Blundeston	27,654
Buckley Hall[1]	25,329
Camp Hill	24,562
Canterbury	36,772
Channings Wood	22,302
Coldingley	25,212
Dartmoor	26,656
Edmunds Hill[1]	25,149
Erlestoke	21,705
Everthorpe	21,759
Featherstone	23,335
Guys Marsh	20,975
Haverigg	21,574
Highpoint	18,453
Lancaster	42,683
Lindholme	26,039
Littlehey	19,532
Maidstone	21,193
Moorland	21,423
Mount	21,563
Onley	25,073
Ranby	23,657
Risley	19,289
Shepton Mallet	34,444
Stafford	20,206
Stocken	21,090
Usk\Prescoed	28,476
Verne	19,439
Wayland	18,563
Wealstun	19,056
Wellingborough	22,181
Whatton	29,030
Wymott	21,904
Average	21,976
Male dispersal prisons (5)	
Frankland	47,401
Full Sutton	46,086
Long Lartin	37,445
Wakefield	33,653
Whitemoor	59,355
Average	43,904
Female closed prisons (5)	
Bullwood Hall	43,706
CookhamWood	49,716
Downview	28,792
Foston Hall	32,168
Send	30,634
Average	34,617
Female local prisons (6)	
Brockhill	38,657

Public prisons costs per place

Establishment	*Cost (£)*
Eastwood Park	34,519
Holloway	42,608
Low Newton	29,912
New Hall	41,800
Styal	34,387
Average	37,366
Female open prisons (2)	
Askham Grange	23,290
East Sutton Park	24,965
Average	23,932
Male closed YOI prisons (14)	
Aylesbury	32,660
Brinsford	35,984
Castington	35,085
Deerbolt	26,522
Feltham	45,201
Glen Parva	32,604
Hindley	30,980
Lancaster	33,993
Northallerton	40,030
Portland	24,201
Reading	48,405
Rochester	24,409
Stoke Heath	33,277
Swinfen Hall	26,027
Average	32,887
Male juvenile prisons (4)	
Huntercombe	42,384
Warren	47,015
Werrington	48,195
Wetherby	36,423
Average	42,143
Male local prisons (32)	
Bedford	34,422
Belmarsh	48,079
Birmingham	27,217
Blakenhurst	23,322
Bristol	42,727
Brixton	37,037
Bullingdon	27,912
Cardiff	33,187
Chelmsford	36,147
Dorchester	47,675
Durham	37,663
Elmley	23,749
Exeter	41,661
Gloucester	38,037
Holme House	25,016
Hull	27,034
Leeds	32,593
Leicester	52,770
Lewes	25,684
Lincoln	31,354
Liverpool	25,173
Manchester	34,518
Norwich	28,692

Public prisons costs per place

Establishment	*Cost (£)*
Nottingham	32,764
Pentonville	28,757
Preston	39,695
Shrewsbury	46,870
Swansea	42,626
Wandsworth	28,054
Winchester	36,029
Woodhill	43,313
Wormwood Scrubs	24,512
Average	31,912
Male open prisons (8)	
Ford	14,077
Hewell Grange	24,769
Hollesley Bay	23,801
Kirkham	24,346
Leyhill	22,497
North Sea Camp	19,143
Standford Hill	20,112
Sudbury	16,641
Average	20,183
Male open YOI prisons (1)	
Thorn Cross	27,413
Average	27,413
Semi open prisons (7)	
Blantyre House	23,298
Dover	29,316
Drake Hall	25,559
Haslar	29,742
Kirklevington	19,050
Latchmere House	15,444
Morton Hall	21,796
Average	23,571

Privately run prisons costs per place

Establishment	*Occupancy*	*Cost (£)*
Altcourse	Male local	51,763
Ashfield	Male juvenile	48,669
Bronzefield	Female closed	44,490
Doncaster	Male local	26,417
Dovegate	Male category B	29,043
Forest Bank	Male local	28,420
Lowdham Grange	Male category B	25,981
Parc	Male local	39,976
Rye Hill	Male category B	24,538
Wolds	Male category C	20,855

[1] Costs related to re-role from female to male establishments.

Notes:

1. The prison place numbers used in calculating the costs per place are the Certified Normal Accommodation data. Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the Service aspires to provide all prisoners.
2. Establishments are categorised in these tables by their main role only. For this reason, performance of prisons within a category cannot necessarily be compared on a like for like basis.
3. Peterborough prison is not included as it was being brought into operation during 2005-06.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 591W, on the Delivery Unit, whether joint reviews result in the drawing up of action points that departments are expected to take forward; [144496]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 591W, on the Delivery Unit, how many joint reviews the Delivery Unit has carried out in each financial year since 2001-02; [144497]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 591W, on the Delivery Unit, what the subject was of each of the joint reviews; [144498]

(4) what criteria are used to decide whether the Delivery Unit conducts a joint review with a department of a particular programme or area; [144526]

(5) whether the Delivery Unit produced guidance for its staff on procedures to follow when carrying out joint reviews with other Government departments. [144530]

Hilary Armstrong: Reports arising from joint reviews conducted by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and Departments are policy advice to the Prime Minister and Ministers. Reports contain advice including recommendations for actions to be carried out by Departments. It is for the Prime Minister and Secretary of State to decide how these should be taken forward.

Since its inception, PMDU has conducted joint reviews with Departments as follows:

	Reviews
2001-02	1
2002-03	5
2003-04	8
2004-05	14
2005-06	14
2006-07	32
2007-08	4

In the past 12 months, PMDU has carried out the following joint reviews with

Departments:

Home Office

- Asset Recovery
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Reducing Reoffending,
- Citizen Focused Policing
- Respect Action Plans
- High Crime Causing Drug Users
- National Offender Management
- Non-Custodial Sentences
- New Asylum Model
- Department's Capability Review.

Education

- Primary and Secondary School Standards National Strategy
- Teenage pregnancy
- Pupil attendance
- Pupil behaviour
- Targeted Youth Support
- Building Schools for the Future
- 14-19 local delivery policy
- Department's Capability Review

Health

- 18 weeks
- Choice of four providers
- Practice-based commissioning
- NHS reform programme
- Childhood obesity
- PCT Capability
- Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health
- Department's Capability Review

Other projects

- Access to the Arts
- Review of Government Offices
- Sustainable Procurement
- Cross Government Delivery of Local Area Agreements

Decisions on whether to conduct a review are taken jointly by PMDU and the Department concerned in consultation with No. 10.

PMDU has produced guidance on conducting joint reviews for use in training staff.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff *(a)* were working in the Prime Minister's delivery unit on 31 March 2007 and *(b)* are expected to be working in the delivery unit on 31 March 2008, broken down by payband. [144529]

Hilary Armstrong: The unit is led at Permanent Secretary level, and its staffing profile at 31 March 2007 was 46 full-time equivalent staff, breaking down as the following mix of grades:

	Number
Senior civil service 2	3
Senior civil service 1	11
Cabinet Office Band A	22
Cabinet Office Band B2	5
Cabinet Office Band B2 (faststream)	3
Cabinet Office Band B1	2

The size of the unit and mix of grades at 31 March 2008 is in the process of being determined.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146340]

Hilary Armstrong: For details of my Department's spend on consultancy in each year since 2000, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) and the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 767-08W.

My Department does not hold a central record of the total value of consultancy contracts, therefore, this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144618]

Hilary Armstrong: The campaigns run by the Department and its agencies were as follows:

	Campaign	*External Agencies*	*Cost (£)*
2002-03	No activity	—	—
2003-04	Recruitment	Barkers	7,560
2004-05	Go In Stay In Tune In	WCRS	2,974,799
	Fast stream Recruitment	McCann Erickson	7,712
2005-06	Directgov	WTCS/Naked	864,732
	Recruitment	Barkers	13,414
2006-07	No activity	—	—

Energy

Alan Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost was of producing and publishing the policy review document Building on progress: Energy and environment. [144830]

Hilary Armstrong: Final costs of producing and publishing this document are not yet available.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W, on general practitioners: working hours, (1) what work the Delivery Unit has done on out-of-hours care since 2001; [144494]

(2) whether the Unit has conducted a joint review of out-of-hours care since 2001. [144495]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's (PMDU) role is to monitor and report on delivery of the Prime Minister's top delivery and reform priorities. Out-of-hours care is not one of the areas on which PMDU's health team has worked, and PMDU has not conducted a joint review on it since 2001.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bodies are funded within the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme; how much each is due to receive over the next five years; what the administration cost is of each; and if he will make a statement. [145619]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme's (BREW) funding is distributed to regional and national delivery bodies over three years (April 2005 to March 2008), with the amount increasing each year. We are now in Year 3, the final year, of the current Programme. Any future BREW Programme will depend on the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The current BREW delivery bodies are: the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme, Envirowise, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, the Market Transformation Programme, the Regional Development Agencies, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, the Environment Agency, the Sustainable Supply Chain Group, the Carbon Trust, the Department for Trade and Industry Technology Programme and DEFRA. Funding for each of these bodies, for each year of the current programme, can be found on the DEFRA website.

One of the conditions from Her Majesty's Treasury, for the BREW Programme funding, is that administration costs should be kept to a minimum and this requirement is carried through to all of the BREW delivery bodies.

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public funds have been made available to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens in each of the last five years. [145721]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Through its Special Grants Programme, the Department for Communities and Local Government has funded the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (the Federation) as follows: 2005-06: £50,000; 2006-07: £70,000; 2007-08: £125,000 to a total amount of £245,000. No funding was provided to the Federation by the Departments in 2003-04 or 2004-05.

The Departments funding allows the Federation to develop networks to support and promote new and existing local community-based gardening and food production groups, supporting delivery of our Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities programme.

Through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Environmental Action Fund, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens received a three-year grant from 2005-08 as follows:

	£
2005-06	84,000
2006-07	116,500
2007-08	114,500

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs funding supports the Sustainable Production in Active Neighbourhoods (SPAN) Project. SPAN partners, including the Federation, are being supported to develop resources and working methods that will support community organisations to enable people to be involved in sustainable food production and consumption.

Noise

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to implement section 84 and Schedule 1 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 relating to noise. [146068]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 84 and Schedule 1 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 came into force in relation to England on 1 October 2006. We have revised the directions for permitted noise levels and an approval for devices measuring noise levels.

However, these cannot be brought into force until a stand-still period required under the Technical Standards and Regulations Directive 98/34/EC has expired.

A statement will be published on the DEFRA website when we are able to confirm the exact date.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on neighbourhood noise. [146069]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government take the issue of neighbourhood noise seriously, and has given new powers to local authorities to deal with noise-related problems under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Noise: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many environment protection officers there are responsible for noise in each London borough. [146067]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not hold the information requested. Staffing levels in individual London boroughs are a matter for the relevant local authority.

Noise: Pollution Control

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide an update on a proposed National Ambient Noise Strategy. [146066]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government plan to publish a combined national noise strategy for England, covering ambient and neighbourhood noise, by the end of 2007.

Recycling

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department has taken to increase the level of recycling of plastic in the UK; [145620]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of households able to recycle plastic packing through doorstep collection. [145622]

Mr. Bradshaw: Recycling is strongly promoted by a range of Government policies. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate used in UK manufacturing operations.

The demand for recycled plastic is very strong, both from UK manufacturers and overseas markets. The UK currently recycles or recovers approximately 19 per cent. of all plastic consumed, and this is set to increase to over 25 per cent. by 2010. WRAP has a number of projects over the next two years which aim to switch manufacturing processes from virgin to recycled materials, including a target to support the recycling of an additional 16 kilo tonnes of plastic bottles—an increase of 30 per cent. from current levels.

The new Waste Strategy for England, which we published in May, focuses action on key waste materials for greater scope for improving environmental and economic outcomes, one of which is plastic. The Strategy recognises that recycling plastics shows significant potential for carbon and energy savings through displacing virgin materials. Actions set out in the Strategy include developing proposals (subject to further analysis) for higher packaging recycling targets beyond the 2008 EC Packaging Directive targets, and supporting WRAP in its work to increase recycling of plastics and the recycled content of certain plastic containers.

We have set demanding targets, both nationally and locally, for household waste recycling and composting and the Waste Strategy sets even higher national targets, to reach at least 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020. These targets are not material-specific, but we expect the range of materials collected by local authorities, including plastics, to increase further as targets become more demanding and as collection and treatment capacity increases.

TREASURY

Al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the departmental responsibilities of the Paymaster General since May 1997 have included authorisation of any aspect of the Al-Yamamah defence contract; and if he will make a statement. [146219]

Dawn Primarolo: The responsibilities of the Paymaster General do not include authorisation of any aspect of the Al-Yamamah defence contract.

Capital Gains Tax: Venture Capital

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the memorandum of understanding with the British Venture Capital Association on the application of capital gains tax relief rules to venture capital companies. [146227]

John Healey: The two memoranda of understanding with the British Venture Capital Association can be found at the following links:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ersmmanual/ERSM30530.htm
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ersmmanual/ersm30520.htm

I have also placed copies in the Library.

Corporation Tax

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections were made of non-North Sea corporation tax receipts in *(a)* the preceding Budget and *(b)* the Pre Budget report in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07; and what the outturn receipts were in each year. [145038]

John Healey: Projections and outturns of on-shore corporation tax receipts can be derived from the current receipts tables in the public finances chapters of the Financial Statement and Budget report and pre-Budget reports.

An analysis of the difference between forecast and outturn for the year-ahead forecasts from the previous two Budgets is published in the End of Year Fiscal Report. This is published annually alongside the pre-Budget report.

Departments: Correspondence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on Departments: correspondence, whether the 15 day target for responding to correspondence from hon. Members includes holding replies; what percentage of letters received holding replies only within 15 days in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what percentage of letters from hon. Members received a substantive response within 15 working days. [145988]

John Healey: During the financial year ending March 2007 HM Treasury sent 85 per cent. substantive replies to hon. Members within target. Performances do not normally include holding replies but, exceptionally, where an issue may be subject to forthcoming policy or announcement changes such replies may be included if hon. Members are updated with the latest position and then further updated once those changes have been made. Holding replies account for around 2 per cent. of replies to hon. Members.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145302]

John Healey: HM Treasury issues cards for the purchase of official travel and subsistence services and the procurement of low value goods and services, in line with government rules on procurement. Total spending on these cards in the past three years was as follows:

	£
2004-05	1,941,911
2005-06	2,637,234
2006-07	2,712,465

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145984]

John Healey: The average working days lost per staff year in HM Treasury in the last three years is as follows:

2006: 4.8 of which 1.1 days is estimated to be stress-related

2005: 4.9 of which 1.2 days is estimated to be stress-related

2004: 4.1 of which 0.8 days is estimated to be stress-related

Direct Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the British Bankers' Association on the Direct Payments scheme since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [142506]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Building Societies' Association on the Direct Payments scheme since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [142521]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor has not met with either of these groups since 2003 to discuss the Direct Payments scheme.

HM Revenue and Customs: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average bonus payment made to HM Revenue and Customs staff in senior grades was in the last year for which figures are available. [144714]

Dawn Primarolo: The average bonus payment made to HM Revenue and Customs senior civil servants was £5,130.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many migrant workers from the EU *(a)* arrived in the UK and *(b)* were in the UK in each month from April 2003 to April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [141094]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

VAT: Exemptions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discretion there is in applying exemptions from VAT for work carried out on a disabled person's home after the work has been completed. [146000]

Dawn Primarolo: The VAT reliefs for alterations to a disabled person's private residence include a zero rate for the provision, extension or adaptation of a bathroom, washroom or lavatory, and for the construction of rampsand the widening of doorways or passages to facilitate entry into, and movement within, the building. However, zero-rating is not available for all building work carried out on the homes of disabled people and EU VAT

agreements, signed by successive Governments, do not allow us to extend the scope of our existing zero rates or introduce new ones.

If a customer has been charged the standard rate of VAT on a supply that was correctly liable to the zero rate, he or she should contact their supplier to obtain a refund of the amount they consider the supplier has overcharged. In turn, the supplier can recover from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) the VAT for which he has over-accounted to them, subject to certain time limits. In cases of doubt the supplier should contact HMRC's Charities and Disabled Reliefs Helpline on 0845 302 0203.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the percentage of tax credits paid out for 2003-04 which is accounted for by fraud, error and overpayment; and if he will make a statement. [144876]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for the level of error and fraud in 2003-04 are available in the publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Error and fraud statistics 2003-04'. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_025711

Estimates of the amount of entitlement for claimants in 2003-04 are available in the publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised awards 2003-04. Supplement on payments in 2003-04.' This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-payments-0304.pdf

Estimates for the value of overpayments in 2003-04 are available in the publication 'Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised annual awards 2005-06. Supplement on payments in 2005-06'. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-payments-0506.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place to ensure that letters notifying clients of the cessation of tax credits are not sent in error; and how many such letters have been sent in error since the system was established. [145209]

Dawn Primarolo: Procedural guidance for HM Revenue and Customs staff dealing with tax credits can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/index.htm

Information about the number of letters is not available in the format requested.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters were written by HM Revenue and Customs demanding the recovery of overpaid tax credits in each month since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [144868]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs issued around 171,000 requests to pay back overpaid tax credits (forms TC610) from January 2007 to March 2007 (inclusive).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Agriculture: Foreign Workers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary agricultural workers permits have been issued to *(a)* Romanian nationals and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals since 1 January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [140539]

Mr. Byrne: Provisional figures indicate that for the period 1 January to 31 March 2007, 1,535 work cards have been issued for Bulgarian nationals and 890 work cards for Romanian nationals wanting to participate in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Airline Liaison Officers: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airline liaison offices and returns liaison officers are stationed in Scotland; where they are located; and if he will make a statement. [144404]

Mr. Byrne: There are no Airline Liaison Officers (ALOs) or Returns Liaison Officers (RLOs) based in the United Kingdom.

Airline Liaison Officers work at points abroad identified as significant points of embarkation for inadequately documented passengers boarding flights to the United Kingdom. Returns Liaison Officers are based overseas and are responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison with foreign officials on the ground to facilitate the return of those with no legal basis to remain in the United Kingdom.

Asylum

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1871, on asylum, how many applications of claims for extensions of discretionary leave were decided in the weeks beginning *(a)* 23 October 2006, *(b)* 30 October 2006, *(c)* 6 November 2006, *(d)* 13 November 2006, *(e)* 20 November 2006, *(f)* 27 November 2006, *(g)* 4 December 2006, *(h)* 11 December 2006 and *(i)* 18 December 2006 [137125]

Mr. Byrne: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, wrote to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 February

2007 about the legacy programme. She explained that once reports can be produced on the legacy programme which Parliament and the wider public can have confidence in, Parliament will be updated accordingly. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the 400,000 to 450,000 unresolved records relating to asylum cases to which he referred in his statement to the House on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 324, on the Home Office: Reform Action Plan, have been resolved; [138530]

(2) how many of the 400,000 to 450,000 unresolved records relating to asylum cases to which he referred in his statement to the House on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 324, on Home Office: Reform Action Plan, are held at Beddington Cross. [138531]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 23 May 2007]:* Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, wrote to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 February 2007 about the legacy programme. She explained that once reports can be produced on the legacy programme which Parliament and the wider public can have confidence in, Parliament will be updated accordingly. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Asylum: Applications

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding asylum applications there are; and how many were first made *(a)* within the last (i) 12 months, (ii) two years and (iii) three years and *(b)* more than three years ago. [145492]

Mr. Byrne: The latest published figures show that the number of cases (excluding dependants) recorded as awaiting an initial decision was 5,700 at the end of March 2007. Of this total, 4,300 cases were work in progress, i.e. the application had been outstanding for six months or less.

Information on when outstanding asylum applications were first made could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Information on outstanding asylum applications is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: English Language

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has estimated any additional costs for interpretation services provided by his Department which might result from the decision to end free English classes for asylum seekers, refugees in work and migrant workers. [125557]

Mr. Byrne: Most asylum seekers already request that an interpreter be provided at their asylum interview. The costs of providing this service are already met by the Border and Immigration Agency. We do not therefore anticipate any additional costs arising from the decision to end free access to ESOL courses for asylum seekers. Refugees on low incomes continue to be entitled to free English classes. The Border and Immigration Agency funds the Sunrise pilot scheme which provides caseworker support to new refugees in accessing appropriate mainstream benefits, ESOL provision and employment services and opportunities. Other migrant workers have limited face-to-face contact with the Home Office.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* driver and *(b)* vehicle information held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's Automated Number Plate Recognition database that is inaccurate. [144796]

Mr. McNulty: Driver information held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is not used to support use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) as the technology applies to vehicles only.

Border and Immigration Agency: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff were employed at the North Shields Enforcement Unit of the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor the Immigration and Nationality Department at the start of each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and how many site visits and inspections were made by them in each year from 2003-04 to 2006-07. [146309]

Mr. Byrne: The annual number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Border and Immigration Agency and, before 2 April 2007, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate at North Shields between 2003-04 and 2007-08 are as follows:

	Full-time equivalent
2007-08	51.4
2006-07	50.4
2005-06	36.4
2004-05	57.0
2003-04	[1]—

[1] No figures available due to archiving of records.

The figures for 2004-05 cover border control and enforcement staff. Separate figures are not available.

The number of site visits and inspections made by this unit between 2003-04 and 2006-07 are as follows:

	Number
2006-07	438
2005-06	398
2004-05	341
2003-04	212

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are, therefore, provisional and subject to change.

British Nationality: Applications

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people having to retake Knowledge of Life in the UK tests have already been granted citizenship. [141599]

John Reid: I will write to the hon. Gentleman shortly about this matter.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139516]

Mr. Byrne: The expenditure on advertising for the Home Office, including the Border and Immigration Agency, and the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, for the requested period, is in the following table.

					£000
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Home Office	9,854	12,062	11,314	9,348	13,658
IPS	489	649	467	826	993
CRB	0	0	0	0	0

For both the Home Office and IPS, advertising for recruitment is accounted for as part of recruitment and selection costs and is not included in the figures above.

Departments: IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd. in each year since May 1997; and for what purposes. [125719]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's payments to the Institute for Public Policy Research and IPPR Trading Ltd., for the period in question, were:

			£000
	IPPR	*IPPR Trading*	*Total*
1997-98	0	—	0
1998-99	18.7	—	18.7
1999-2000	0	—	0
2000-01	5.4	—	5.4
2001-02	0	—	0
2002-03	29.8	—	29.8
2003-04	99.9	20.9	120.8
2004-05	—	4.1	4.1
2005-06	—	4.7	4.7

The purpose of expenditure was for research projects and consultancy work. More details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143898]

Mr. Byrne: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Figures given are for FTE staff joining in the preceding year, who on the 31 March, were in post in the categories shown. In some cases movement between other Government Departments or other categories of employment other than recruitment may be included. It is not possible to exclude these except at disproportionate cost.

Central Home Office including Border and Immigration Agency[1]

	Temporary		*Permanent*	
2006-07[2]	*(a) part-time*	*(b) full-time*	*(c) part-time*	*(d) full-time*
(i) male	24	146	35	948
(ii) female	48	157	125	957
(iii) disabled[3]	0	1-4[4]	1-4	10
(iv) aged 55 years or over.	6	10	6	86
2005-06				
(i) male	5	135	25	979
(ii) female	18	152	139	1062
[iii) disabled	0	0	1-4[4]	—
(iv) aged 55 years or over	—	9	21	156
2004-05				
(i) male	10	108	38	1,012
(ii) female	16	341	113	980
(iii) disabled	0	1-4	1-4	39
(iv) aged 55 years or over	1-4	13	16	171

Notes:

[1] Border and Immigration Agency moved to Agency status on 9 May 2007, previous to this it was Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

[2] Figures have been taken from the Home Office personnel system Adelphi as at 31 March 2005, 2006, 2007. Non-active staff have been excluded. Temporary staff here excludes agency workers and contractors.

[3] The Home Office does not store disability information on the basis of 'registered disability' figures are for self-declared disabled status.

[4] Where staff numbers are less than five, it is not Home Office policy to disclose them.

Prison Service

	Temporary		*Permanent*	
2006-07	*(a) part-time*	*(b) full-time*	*(c) part-time*	*(d) full-time*
(i) male	19	596	54	2,295

Prison Service

2006-07	Temporary (a) part-time	Temporary (b) full-time	Permanent (c) part-time	Permanent (d) full-time
(ii) female	94	602	234	1,871
(iii) disabled[1]	4	20	9	55
(iv) aged 55 years or over.	15	107	45	222
2005-06				
(i) male	19	658	54	2,197
(ii) female	103	582	214	1,833
(iii) disabled	2	20	5	40
(iv) aged 55 years or over	17	82	44	192
2004-05				
9i) male	18	571	50	2,222
(ii) female	80	462	306	1,947
(iii) disabled	0	12	8	64
(iv) aged 55 years or over	12	68	54	210

[1] The Home Office does not store disability information on the basis of 'registered disability' figures are for self-declared disabled status.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143915]

Mr. Byrne: The department publishes annual Diversity and Equal Opportunity Monitoring Reports that includes comprehensive employment data on gender, disability and age. These can be accessed through the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/staff-equality-targets/

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145703]

Mr. Byrne: The available figures are as set out in the tables.

Within the Criminal Records Bureau, these data are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Available figures for Central Home Office and Border and Immigration Agency

	2007 Number	2007 Percentage of new entrants	2006 Number	2006 Percentage of new entrants	2005 Number	2005 Percentage of new entrants
(a) people over 55 years of age[1]	82	3.36	160	6.36	174	6.65
(b) people over 60 years of age	17	0.70	26	1.03	51	1.95

[1] Number given is new entrants aged over 55, it therefore excludes those in (b).

An earlier PQ 143915 asked for staff numbers in the category '55 and over' figures supplied there are larger than the sum of *(a)* and *(b)* above as they include those at 55 years of age.

The figures have been taken from records held on the Home Office personnel system called ADELPHI.

Recruits into public sector Prison Service aged (a) over 55 and (b) over 60

	2006-07 Number	2006-07 Percentage of new entrants	2005-06 Number	2005-06 Percentage of new entrants	2004-05 Number	2004-05 Percentage of new entrants
(a) people over 55 years of age	389	6.70	335	5.90	344	6.10
(b) people over 60 years of age	109	1.90	75	1.30	68	1.20

Note:
New entrants in *(b)* are also included in *(a)*. The figures include staff who are either 55 or 60 years of age or older respectively on the day of joining the Prison Service

IPS

	2007 Number	2007 Percentage of new entrants	2006 Number	2006 Percentage of new entrants	2005 Number	2005 Percentage of new entrants
(a) people over 55 years	335 ppl (8.2%)	0.76	308 ppl (-8.60%)	0.68	279 ppl (-9.20%)	0.91
(b) people over 60 years	160 ppl (-3.90%)	0.21	146 ppl (-4.00%)	0.34	130 ppl (-4.30%)	0.21

Departments: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by his Department on staff pay in each year since 1997-98; and how many staff were employed in each year. [126383]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office Departmental Report (2004-05) contains outturn information on staffing numbers from 1999 to 2003 for the core department, Prison Service, Forensic Science Service, Fire Service College and United Kingdom Passport Agency (now Identity and Passport Service). The staff numbers are in tables 6.9 and 6.10 (pages 130 and 131). The report can be found on the Home Office website using this link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/annual-report-0405-html/?version=1.

Since 2004, the Department has published consolidated Resource Accounts, which detail staff costs and staff numbers for the core department, National Probation Service, HM Prison Service, identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. The total staff costs from the Resource Accounts, for the last four financial years, are shown as follows. The costs comprise wages and salaries, social security costs and other pension costs. Resource accounts figures for previous financial years are not available on the same basis.

	Cost (£000)
2004-05	2,728,309
2005-06	2,905,651

For further information, the Home Office Resource Accounts can be accessed via the Home Office website using the following links.

2003-04 (page 36 refers):

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-0304?version=1

2004-05 (pages 43 and 44 refer):

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accts-2004-05?version=1.

2005-06 (pages 67 and 68 refer):

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts_0506?version=1.

Departments: PFI

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value is of the unitary payments of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department over the lifetime of the contract expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value. [145732]

Mr. Byrne: Details of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by the Home Department with information on estimated unitary charges for 2007-08 is available on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The estimated unitary charge is based on 2006-07 actual charges and is not simply repayments for capital value of the project but frequently include other factors such as inflation, service provision, capital repayments and major refurbishment.

To provide information on the unitary payments over the lifetime of the contract expressed in 2007-08 prices and discounted to present value would incur disproportionate costs. On average an appropriate discount rate to use for providing an Net Present Value (NPV) total would be as set out in the Green Book as real discount rate of 3.5 per cent.

The signed deals list covers unitary charges up until 2033-34 and to update the figures to cover the duration of the contract would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ordinary written questions to his Department from hon. Members have been waiting for a substantive reply for more than *(a)* one month and *(b)* two months; and what the subjects are of those questions. [144586]

Mr. McNulty: As of 27 June, the Department had 15 questions that were overdue to either the House of Commons or the House of Lords by one month or more. Of these, 13 were overdue by more than two months. These questions concern a range of subjects relating to departmental business and policy responsibilities.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many emergency telephone operators were employed by police in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area. [139483]

Mr. McNulty: The available data relate to the number of individuals primarily employed in the function of control room (cell handlers). This function includes those staff who are predominately employed as control room operatives, or those who support such individuals, in either force or area control rooms including officers employed as telephonists.

The available data for police officers are from 2002-03 onwards, and the available data for police staff are from 2004-05 onwards, both are given in the tables.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is control room (call handlers)[2] (2002-03 to 2005-06)

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	70	75	69	68
Bedfordshire	31	30	26	19
Cambridgeshire	51	42	39	29
Cheshire	51	49	84	81
Cleveland	46	1	0	0
Cumbria	22	19	21	18
Derbyshire	67	54	56	51
Devon and Cornwall	41	32	31	30
Dorset	29	30	29	28
Durham	89	97	89	88
Dyfed-Powys	16	16	12	11
Essex	81	69	59	51
Gloucestershire	52	46	40	32

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is control room (call handlers)[2] (2002-03 to 2005-06)

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Greater Manchester	245	232	226	221
Gwent	10	8	7	7
Hampshire	81	69	59	40
Hertfordshire	71	65	63	61
Humberside	70	70	57	79
Kent	0	0	35	32
Lancashire	115	116	100	74
Leicestershire	85	70	67	57
Lincolnshire	16	18	19	17
London, City of	34	30	32	26
Merseyside	151	123	116	95
Metropolitan Police	195	181	234	395
Norfolk	40	40	42	38
Northamptonshire	21	22	23	28
Northumbria	99	90	78	64
North Wales	68	62	60	47
North Yorkshire	25	28	29	33
Nottinghamshire	65	61	57	56
South Wales	49	48	40	45
South Yorkshire	59	43	35	28
Staffordshire	88	79	72	1
Suffolk	14	15	13	13
Surrey	54	56	53	43
Sussex	60	50	40	37
Thames Valley	109	90	78	67
Warwickshire	1	1	0	0
West Mercia	30	11	23	20
West Midlands	190	173	172	162
West Yorkshire	145	178	174	155
Wiltshire	38	38	36	37

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables. This function includes those staff who are predominately employed as control room operatives, in either force or area control rooms including officers employed as telephonists.

Police staff (FTE)[1] whose main function is control room (call handlers)[2] (2004-05-2005-06)[3]

	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	324	358
Bedfordshire	97	102
Cambridgeshire	125	112
Cheshire	193	184
Cleveland	10	9
Cumbria	111	108
Derbyshire	205	209
Devon and Cornwall	307	306
Dorset	125	132
Durham	107	109
Essex	223	216

Police staff (FTE)[1] whose main function is control room (call handlers)[2] (2004-05-2005-06)[3]

	2005	2006
Gloucestershire	110	n/a
Greater Manchester	522	503
Hampshire	291	355
Hertfordshire	208	256
Humberside	139	154
Kent	383	412
Lancashire	349	347
Leicestershire	182	153
Lincolnshire	146	n/a
London, City of	28	27
Merseyside	293	203
Metropolitan Police	1682	1684
Norfolk	131	137
Northamptonshire	138	145
Northumbria	226	227
North Yorkshire	158	181
Nottinghamshire	232	233
South Yorkshire	301	331
Staffordshire	252	178
Suffolk	113	130
Surrey	288	280
Sussex	271	263
Thames Valley	456	528
Warwickshire	104	97
West Mercia	281	235
West Midlands	307	n/a
West Yorkshire	317	347
Wiltshire	122	134
Dyfed-Powys	43	58
Gwent	110	113
North Wales	95	n/a
South Wales	218	222

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables. This function includes those staff who are predominately employed as control room operatives, in either force or area control rooms including officers employed as telephonists.
[3] Data are not available for 2002-03 to 2003-04.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the unit cost is of dealing with each category of in-country application. [127402]

Mr. Byrne: Following a public consultation at the end of 2006, we set out in a written ministerial statement and formal response to the consultation the intention to move away from a simple cost recovery model for immigration and nationality fees from this April to a model where categories of leave are priced on

the basis of their value to the applicant. This allows us to adopt a more flexible approach and can keep fees low for particular groups.

The projected unit costs on which the fees which took effect on 2 April 2007 were calculated are as follows. The actual costs of processing the applications will be reported in the accounts of the Border and Immigration Agency in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Application type	*Projected cost 2007-08 (£)*
Settlement/Nationality	
Indefinite leave to remain	450
Nationality—Right Of Abode	135
Nationality—Naturalisation	206
Nationality—Adult Registration	156
Nationality—Minor single and multiple registration	190
Nationality—Adult registration under s.1 of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act 1997	120
Nationality—Minor registration under s.1 of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act 1997	200
Nationality—renunciation	385
Nationality—Citizenship Ceremony Fee	80
Nationality—supply of a certified copy of a notice	20
Nationality—Administration of a citizenship oath (not at a ceremony)	5
Work	
Highly Skilled Migrant Programme	167
HSMP Leave to Remain	258
Work Permits	98
Work Permit Leave to Remain	288
Business Case Unit Leave to Remain	358
WRS	125
SAWS	12
LTR Other	
Leave to Remain (non-student)	395
Certificate of Approval	295
Transfer of Conditions	302
Adult Travel Documents (CID)	210
Child Travel Documents (CID)	130
Adult Travel Documents (CTD)	121
Child Travel Documents (CTD)	450
Student	
Student Leave to Remain	451

Entry Clearances: USA

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the United States Department for Homeland Security on limits to the visa waiver programme for security purposes; and whether exclusions based on *(a)* ethnic and *(b)* behavioural profiling have been discussed. [141354]

John Reid: There have been discussions on several occasions with Secretary Chrertoff on how to enhance co-operation on border security, including the Visa Waiver programme. At no stage has ethnic profiling been requested, countenanced or discussed other than in addressing misleading press reports, which were dismissed by both sides.

Immigration

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time has been to an immigration enquiry from an hon. Member in 2007; and what the equivalent figure was in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2005. [145493]

Mr. Byrne: In 2005 letters from hon. Members were answered within an average of 32.8 working days. In 2006 letters from hon. Members were answered within an average of 23.56 working days.

Figures for the average number of days to respond to a hon. Member's letters in 2007 are not currently available.

Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006: Prosecutions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under section 34 (3) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143457]

Mr. McNulty: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 received Royal Assent on the 30 March 2006. Section 34(3) provides an offence where a person fails to provide information in response to a requirement under section 32 (2) or (3) or 33(2) of that Act.

We are currently engaged in consultation with industry on implementation of these sections, which will influence when these sections will commence. To date, there have been no prosecutions under section 34(3) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.

Immigration Controls

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure *(a)* is followed by Border Control and Immigration Agency officers in relation to cases defined as 'work in progress hold' and *(b)* determines the order in which such cases are dealt with; and what the average length of time taken was to deal with such cases in the latest period for which figures are available. [140653]

Mr. Byrne: The document Fair, Effective, Transparent and Trusted: Rebuilding Confidence in our Immigration System, published in July 2006, lays out the order of priorities for legacy asylum cases. We will consider first those who may pose a risk to the public, and then those more easily removed, those receiving support, and those who may be granted leave. All cases are dealt with on their individual merits.

Immigration Officers: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many full-time equivalent immigration officers there are in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate; [120401]

(2) how many full-time equivalent removals and enforcement officers there are in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [120402]

Mr. Byrne: At the end of 31 March 2007, there were around 9,000 full-time equivalent staff working in both the Border and Enforcement areas within the Border and Immigration Agency.

Leave to Remain

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on enforcement action in the case of applicants for the family indefinite leave to remain exercise with criminal convictions *(a)* whose cases are outstanding and *(b)* whose applications have been refused; and how many have been made the subject of enforcement action since the policy was introduced. [115828]

Mr. Byrne: The criteria Border and Immigration Agency applies its criteria for deportation when determining whether enforcement action should be taken in family indefinite leave to remain cases where criminality is involved. The agency's deportation criteria were set out by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary in a written ministerial statement on 23 May 2006.

Figures for those with criminal convictions refused under the Family Indefinite Leave exercise and subject to enforcement action are unavailable and would only be obtained by examination of the individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons *(a)* the letter of 16 April 2007 on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children was not acknowledged or replied to and *(b)* the subsequent fax did not reach him; and if he will deal promptly with the email sent on 22 May containing the original letter. [139592]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The letter of 16 April was delayed in reaching my office.

A copy of the letter was received on 10 May, and I wrote to the hon. Member on 19 June in response to the requests made in the original letter.

Northumbria Police: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the general grant to the Northumbria police was in each of the years 2003-04 to 2007-08; and what the percentage change was between each year and the succeeding year. [146305]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Northumbria police—General grant funding 2003-04 and 2007-08

	General govt grants[1] (£ million)	Annual change in general govt grants (Percentage)
2003-04	214.3	—
2004-05	221.4	3.3
2005-06	232.6	5.1
2005-06[2]	222.8	—
2006-07	229.7	3.1
2007-08	238.0	3.6

[1] General grant comprises: Home Office police grant, DCLG revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates.
[2] Adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* special grants and *(b)* targeted initiatives were provided to Northumbria police in each of the years 2003-04 to 2007-08; and what the percentage change in funding was for each scheme or initiative between each year and the succeeding year; [146306]

(2) what *(a)* special grants and *(b)* targeted initiatives for Northumbria police were allocated to the City of Newcastle in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08. [146307]

Mr. McNulty: Information on specific grants is set out in the following tables.

Northumbria has received two special grant allocations in the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. In 2004-05 it was awarded £1.44 million for the Labour Party Spring Conference and it was awarded £0.9 million in 2006-07 for the EU Justice Ministers Conference.

The Government allocate funding to police authorities. The allocation of resources within Northumbria police is a matter for the chief officer and the Police Authority. We do not hold information on resources for the city of Newcastle.

Northumbria police: targeted initiatives 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Crime fighting fund (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)	Basic command unit (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)	Community support officers (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)
2003-04	6.8	—	1.4	—	0.3	—
2004-05	7.3	7.7	1.4	0.0	0.9	160.9
2005-06	7.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	2.1	143.4
2005-06	7.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	2.1	0.0
2006-07[1]	7.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.9	-55.1
2007-08[2]	7.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.0	3.0

	Neighbourhood policing fund (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)	Forensic (DNA expansion) grant (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)	Special priority payments (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)
2003-04	—	—	1.2	—	1.2	—
2004-05	—	—	1.2	-0.7	1.7	39.3
2005-06	—	—	1.0	-20.3	2.1	28.5
2005-06	—	—	1.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
2006-07[1]	5.2	—	—	—	—	—
2007-08[2]	7.3	40.5	—	—	—	—

	Special formula grant[3] (£ million)	Annual percentage change (percentage)	Pensions deficit grant (£ million)	Dedicated security posts (percentage)	Annual percentage change (£ million)	Capital (percentage)
2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	1.5
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	6.6
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	6.0
2005-06	—	—	95		—	6.0
2006-07[1]	3.1	—	11.8		24.2	5.6
2007-08[2]	3.1	0.0	13.1		11.0	6.1

	Annual percentage change (£ million)	Airwave (percentage)	Annual percentage change (£ million)	Premises improvement fund (percentage)	Total specific grants & capital provision (£ million)	Total annual change (percentage)
2003-04	—	0.6	—	0.4	13.4	—
2004-05	331.2	0.4	-41.4	—	19.4	44.8
2005-06	-10.1	0.7	98.7	—	20.5	6.0
2005-06	0.0	0.7	0.0	—	30.0	46.3
2006-07[1]	-6.3	—	—	—	35.2	17.3
2007-08[2]	8.7%	—	—	—	39.2	11.2

[1] NPF figure includes Northumbria's share of the £91 million announced in the 2006 Budget.
[2] Capital figure includes the increased capital allocation announced on 24 May and 19 June 2007
[3] Special Formula Grant comprised four former specific grants; Rural Policing Grant, Special Priority Payments, Forensic Grant and London/SE Allowances.

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources were drawn from the Criminal Casework Team in the former Immigration and Nationality Directorate to improve the speed of responses to Ministers' letters from hon. Members as stated on page 2 of A Review of the Failure of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to consider some Foreign National Prisoners for Deportation. [144735]

Mr. Byrne: The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, Lin Homer, was responsible for commissioning this review and implementing its findings. I have asked the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Gentleman to provide further clarification on the issue he has raised and will also arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 975W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on police: labour turnover, how many police recruits left the police force within two years of joining since 2002-03, broken down by police force area; and what percentage of leavers that figure represents. [143509]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following table. The totals for leavers include transfers to other England and Wales forces.

Number of police officers leaving[1] within two years of joining the service by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2005-06

Headcount

	2002-03[2]		2003-04		2004-05[3]		2005-06[4]	
	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers
Avon and Somerset	39	18.9	33	22.9	30	17.4	15	8.2

Number of police officers leaving[1] within two years of joining the service by police force area, from 2002-03 to 2005-06

Headcount

	2002-03[2]		2003-04		2004-05[3]		2005-06[4]	
	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers	Number of officers leaving within two years	Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers
Bedfordshire	17	18.5	22	21.2	30	30.6	16	18.0
Cambridgeshire	17	15.9	10	10.5	12	11.5	12	10.9
Cheshire	6	5.3	12	11.0	17	15.6	8	4.5
Cleveland	2	3.3	9	11.0	14	17.3	8	7.5
Cumbria	5	8.5	3	6.3	8	17.8	5	6.9
Derbyshire	7	6.4	13	15.1	6	5.5	4	2.9
Devon and Cornwall	20	13.0	10	7.8	18	10.1	24	12.0
Dorset	13	19.1	15	20.0	13	16.5	15	14.4
Durham	6	8.1	11	14.1	17	21.0	16	15.5
Dyfed-Powys	6	10.9	5	12.5	10	16.4	4	5.3
Essex	23	10.7	19	9.2	34	15.2	39	15.1
Gloucestershire	13	15.7	10	17.5	11	19.0	4	4.3
Greater Manchester	56	14.9	65	19.6	55	15.4	43	8.8
Gwent	2	3.3	3	4.1	4	5.5	12	15.2
Hampshire	29	12.9	48	20.7	37	13.9	32	10.9
Hertfordshire	33	17.4	43	27.2	38	24.2	31	18.1
Humberside	17	16.3	22	22.7	12	10.6	20	12.8
Kent	43	20.0	45	19.9	27	12.5	23	8.5
Lancashire	—	—	18	14.3	21	12.6	13	6.2
Leicestershire	9	7.1	16	18.6	—	—	19	11.9
Lincolnshire	15	20.5	7	11.5	14	17.5	14	14.6
London, City of	11	18.6	5	8.9	6	10.2	3	3.8
Merseyside	10	5.1	14	8.0	22	9.6	19	6.7
Metropolitan Police	410	23.5	394	25.0	214	15.5	95	5.9
Norfolk	12	13.0	6	11.8	7	8.8	11	12.1
Northamptonshire	8	14.3	7	9.6	5	5.5	10	11.0
Northumbria	20	12.2	20	11.0	20	12.4	13	6.4
North Wales	9	11.7	7	12.3	10	18.5	6	6.1
North Yorkshire	8	13.8	7	9.5	13	14.6	3	2.9
Nottinghamshire	8	5.8	14	11.3	15	10.3	4	2.5
South Wales	25	16.3	11	7.5	11	8.5	13	7.1
South Yorkshire	24	14.0	23	14.1	30	17.1	21	8.8
Staffordshire	12	9.2	12	11.7	34	27.0	12	10.6
Suffolk	12	14.1	20	26.7	16	21.6	10	11.1
Surrey	53	21.5	40	27.0	30	19.0	22	14.7
Sussex	47	19.3	87	30.0	84	32.4	49	22.2
Thames Valley	53	14.3	37	11.6	62	19.8	41	12.5
Warwickshire	12	20.7	7	12.5	3	4.7	5	6.8
West Mercia	13	11.2	22	17.9	13	11.2	9	5.8
West Midlands	88	16.7	7	1.6	72	16.3	63	12.9
West Yorkshire	30	11.7	32	12.9	40	14.9	63	17.2
Wiltshire	10	12.2	14	21.2	11	13.9	12	16.4
England and Wales	1,253	16.1	1,225	17.0	1,146	15.7	861	9.8

[1] Includes transfers to other England and Wales forces but does not include officers leaving after a period of secondment.
[2] Data not available for Lancashire.
[3] Data not available for Leicestershire.
[4] Over 1,000 police officers previously working with the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) left their home force to join the Serious Organised Crime Agency when it vested on 1 April 2006.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police are employed by Essex police in the Chelmsford area. [145928]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are for the number of full-time equivalent police officers in the Chelmsford basic command unit (BCU) within the Essex police force. These data are published in the supplementary

tables of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 13/06 "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2006" and are downloadable from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306add_tab.xls

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the Chelmsford BCU was 232 as at 31 March 2006 (FTE figures rounded to the nearest whole number, includes those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave).

Salman Rushdie

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent from the public purse on the protection of Salman Rushdie in each year *(a)* since the fatwa was announced and *(b)* since its removal. [145825]

Mr. McNulty: It is our long established policy not to comment on protective security arrangements (and their associated costs) for any individual. This is because to do so could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Work Permits: Fraud

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations the Home Office Work Permits Section carried out into complaints of work permits abuse in the IT, communications and electronics sector in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and how many resulted in a penalty or sanction against (i) the employing organisation and (ii) the work permit holder in each year. [145079]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 327W.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer question 134975, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South on 25 April 2007, on Miss Ketchanou; and what the reasons are for the delay. [144578]

Mr. McNulty: My hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Byrne) replied to the hon. Member on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 311W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about *(a)* the food served and *(b)* those serving it were made at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in each of the last three years; and what action has been taken as a result. [144843]

Mr. Byrne: Records of complaints by detainees about food are only readily available from January 2006. Since this date there have been 15 complaints about food and seven about servery staff. All complaints about the food have been addressed and detainees have received written responses. Staff concerned have been provided with advice and guidance regarding their conduct in the workplace but disciplinary action has not been necessary. Currently, two investigations into staff conduct are ongoing.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre were disciplined in each of the last three years; for what offences; what action resulted in each case; and if he will make a statement. [144847]

Mr. Byrne: Information prior to July 2006 is not available under the Data Protection Act, which does not permit the storage of records relating to disciplinary action for more than 12 months.

From July 2006 to April 2007, the last 10 months that Global Solutions Limited (GSL) operated the centre under contract to the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), fifteen employees at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre were subject to disciplinary procedures. The disciplinary offences were poor attendance, failure to report absence, unauthorised absence, lateness, failure to follow procedures, unprofessional conduct and harassment, displaying threatening behaviour to a colleague, discourteous to staff, sickness, inappropriate use of language and behaviour and leaving the site without authorisation. None of the disciplinary offences concerned actions towards detainees. The cases resulted in the issue of warnings to the staff concerned. These were in the form of verbal and written warnings.

Serco were awarded the contract for the operation of Yarl's Wood in April 2007. There have since been two disciplinary investigations of staff, both for bringing mobile phones into the establishment. The members of staff were given verbal warnings.

Contractors are responsible for their own disciplinary procedures which are overseen in operation by Border and Immigration Agency staff.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* racial intimidation have been registered by inmates of Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in the last 12 months; and what the result has been of investigations into such complaints. [144849]

Mr. Byrne: From January 2006 there are no records of complaints of sexual intimidation. There have been six complaints referred to the Race Relations Liaison Officer, five of which were assessed as not being of a racist nature. The sixth was withdrawn by the detainee and the Race Relations Liaison Officer satisfied himself that this complaint was not of a racist nature and decided not to pursue the matter further.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departments: Languages

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the views of

(a) language teaching staff in her Department and *(b)* staff in other departments were on the decision to outsource her Department's language teaching operation. [142085]

Mr. Hoon: Language teaching staff are very committed to achieving high standards in their work. They expressed disappointment when told of the decision to outsource the teaching operation. We will be offering them every possible support in managing the transition from the present arrangements. There will be no bar to existing teaching staff providing language training services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in future, either as an employee or owner of an organisation that successfully tenders for this business.

Language training will continue to be provided for staff from other Government Departments posted into FCO jobs. Those Departments will be offered the opportunity to use the proposed FCO framework agreement to source language training for their own staff who need language skills in the future. Other Departments were not consulted on the FCO's business decision to outsource language training.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account was taken of the job requirements of staff *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in other departments when making the decision to outsource her Department's language teaching operation. [142086]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) language policy review made a number of recommendations to improve the skills of FCO staff who require language skills to do their job. The decision to outsource training will not impact on the operational efficiency of FCO staff or staff from other Government Departments working in the FCO.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the quality of the language teaching available from outside providers compared with that available from the in-house staff in her Department. [142087]

Mr. Hoon: We do not believe that quality of training will be affected. Language teaching suppliers will have performance targets built into their contracts. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services Review of Language training, which looked at the examination performance of trainees taught by agency-supplied teachers, concluded that examination performance is not automatically enhanced by having full time teachers. 40 per cent. of FCO priority language training is already outsourced.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors are taken into account by her Department when calculating the cost of an average hour of language teaching to *(a)* a single individual and *(b)* a group in a lesson provided by her Department's language teaching operation. [142088]

Mr. Hoon: When benchmarking the cost of an average hour of language tuition, detailed analysis considered tuition costs, including value added tax and, for group training, classes of four.

Other costs such as accommodation, registration and set up fee and learning resources subscription were not taken into account when comparing the hourly tuition rates.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost is of an hour of language teaching to *(a)* a single individual and *(b)* a group in a lesson provided by (i) her Department's language teaching operation and (ii) external language providers contracted to her Department. [142089]

Mr. Hoon: The current cost of tuition under the current in-house teaching operation and for external providers contracted by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services is:

		£
	Individual	*Group*
FCO Services	55-65	60-80
FCO Services contracted external providers	41 to 70	47 to 70

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in her Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145975]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep statistics on reported cases of work-related stress, nor on sickness absences related to stress.

We attach importance to identifying and tackling causes of stress in the workplace. We published detailed guidance earlier this year for all staff and managers on recognising and dealing with occupational stress. Staff are able to discuss work-related or personal concerns with a trained welfare officer. In addition we provide access for staff both in the UK and overseas to a confidential telephone counselling and advice service.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what new initiatives she has recently discussed with *(a)* the Government of Israel and *(b)* EU member states in relation to (i) Israeli activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and (ii) Israeli settlement building on the E1 plan and elsewhere in the West Bank. [145990]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to discuss these issues regularly with the Government of Israel and international partners, including the EU.

The UK consistently makes clear its view that settlements are illegal under international law and that settlement activity is an obstacle to peace. The Roadmap is clear that Israel should freeze all settlement construction including the "natural growth"

of existing settlements and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv last raised our concerns about settlement activity with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May. We continue to make clear our objection to any settlement activity.

We are concerned by reports of Israeli construction work at El. The continuing process of establishing settlements is encircling East Jerusalem and breaking up Palestinian territorial contiguity throughout the West Bank. These practices fuel Palestinian anger, threaten to cut East Jerusalem off from the West Bank and undermine the prospect for a viable Palestinian state. We continue to call for Israel to meet its Roadmap commitments on settlements.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Domestic Service: Legal Protection

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legal protection for the rights of domestic workers have been introduced since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [125427]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

In 1998, arrangements for overseas domestic workers in private households were revised to enable them to change employers in the UK if they had suffered abuse or exploitation, as long as they remained in employment as a domestic worker in a private household. This arrangement was subsequently amended to allow domestic workers to change employer regardless of the reason.

A regularisation scheme was also established for those who had left their original employer due to abuse or exploitation. Their stay would be regularised for 12 months in the first instance for those that brought themselves to the attention of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate between 23 July 1998 and 23 October 1999.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Community-based Sentencing

8. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress he has made on the development of community-based sentencing as an alternative to prison in Northern Ireland. [144671]

9. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what alternatives to prison are being developed in Northern Ireland; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of those measures. [144672]

14. **Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in developing community-based sentencing as an effective alternative to prison in Northern Ireland. [144678]

Maria Eagle: Good progress is being made in developing community-based alternatives to prison—particularly in relation to youth offending where our new system of youth conferencing recently extended across the whole of Northern Ireland. It has enormous potential to divert young people from custody, satisfy the victims of crime that they have a say in the way in which crime is dealt with, and cut re-offending rates significantly.

Social Housing

10. **Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will seek discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on increasing the block grant to increase resources available for social housing in Northern Ireland. [144674]

Mr. Hain: Social housing in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the devolved administration in Northern Ireland, and it is for the Northern Ireland Executive to decide on the allocation of public expenditure between services in Northern Ireland. But the Chancellor has stated housing will be a priority in his new Cabinet.

Terrorist Groups

11. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the security threat posed by each of the Irish terrorist groups proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. [144675]

Paul Goggins: The Provisional IRA no longer poses a terrorist threat, and has not done so for some time. However, Dissident Republicans, though few in number and isolated, continue to pose a serious threat to the security situation.

Given the recent statement by the UVF, I have commissioned a review of the status of specified organisations in line with my obligation under the legislation. We have always maintained that we will encourage those who want to work to a positive agenda, and it is vital that the welcome statement is followed through with actions.

Police Service

12. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the likely proportion of Catholic officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [144676]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of Catholic officers in PSNI has been forecast as follows:

As at 31 March:	*Percentage*
2008	24.04
2009	26.28
2010	28.29
2011	30.23

Police Ombudsman

13. **Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanisms are in place by which the Police Ombudsman's office can be held accountable in respect of complaints made against her office. [144677]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland is responsible for addressing all maladministration complaints made against the Office, and ensures that all such matters are examined within the Office's Satisfaction Policy and Procedures in place. If complainants are still not satisfied with the explanation given by the Chief Executive, the matter can then be raised with the Secretary of State, who will consider the case independently, and with due consideration given of all the evidence that is made available to him.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people under the age of 18 years were cautioned for underage drinking by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [142640]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI have advised the following:

Consuming intoxicating liquor while a minor	*Cautions*
2004	14
2005	44
2006	60

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146091]

Mr. Hain: The information sought is as follows:

	Number
(a) Involved in assisting European Council negotiations	0
(b) Involved in assisting and advising the European Commission	0
(c) Seconded to the European Commission	0
(d) Involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives	5
(e) Involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives	4
(f) Involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice	2

The staff identified at *(d)*, *(e)* and *(f)* do not work full-time on these matters and nor do they have lead responsibility for any of this work. Rather, they are involved on an ad hoc basis, providing advice and Northern Ireland Office input to work for which other Whitehall Departments take the lead.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by his Department in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144628]

Mr. Hain: The following table provides details of which advertising and marketing campaigns have been run by my Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. Details of external agencies and costs are also provided in the table.

	Advertising/marketing campaign	*External agencies involved*	*Cost (£)*
2002-03	Advertising for recruitment of:	Anderson Spratt Group	152,526.71
	Financial Accountant (B2)		
	Part-time Teachers Casual Contractors, Escort (Maghaberry and Hydebank Wood)		
	Principal Psychologist		
	Deputy Head of Financial Services, DPP		
	Head of Financial Services, DPP		
	Electronic Reporting Officer, FSNI		
	Road Traffic Collision Investigator, FSNI, Permanent Appointment		
	Senior Legal Assistant, DPP		
	Legal Assistants, DPP		
	Grade B1 Finance Accountant,		
	Grade B2 Finance Accountant		
	Head of Community Safety Division		
	Director of Finance and Personnel, NIPS		
	Information Officer		
	Senior Records and Information Manager (Grade B2)		
	Records and Information Manager (Grade C)		
	IT Professional (B2)		
	Permanent Appointment, IT	Not known	61,733.90
	Professional (Grade C), Head of IT Operations and Electronic Engineering Services		
2003-04	Staff recruitment of:	Anderson Spratt Group	188,059.69
	Forensic science staff		
	Information Officers		
	Senior Chef,		
	Consultant Forensic Pathologist		
	Management Accounting,		

	Advertising/marketing campaign	External agencies involved	Cost (£)
	Part-time cleaner		
	Female searchers		
	Casual contractors, Escort Magilligan,		
	Head of Pay and Employee Relations		
	Psychologist (Graduate Trainee)		
	Head of Estate Management		
	Head of Personnel		
	Assistant Cook		
	Part-time Library Assistant		
	Kitchen Porter		
	Driver, Night Patrol Officer		
	Recruitment for Records		
	Management staff, 5		
	Adverts for supply of scientific equipment		
	Stay safe stay secure		
	Reclassification of cannabis		
	NI fireworks Safety Campaign, Schools and Public Awareness		
2004-05	Staff recruitment advertising	Tim Lewis Recruitment Ltd.	12,008.04
		Parity Resources Ltd.	8,446.23
		Anderson Spratt Group	232,340.90
	Job advertisement for:		
	Director of Communications	Barkers HR Advertising	45,965.65
	Stay safe stay secure	None	56,777.80
	Theft from vehicles	None	88,918.96
2005-06	Recruitment of:	Anderson Spratt Group	221,158.24
	3 Grade A Accountants		
	1 Grade 5, Head of FSD		
	2 Grade B2 Accountants		
	Forensic science staff		
	Information Officer		
	Purchase/Procurement manager		
	Senior buyer/procurement officer		
	Consultant forensic pathologist		
	Nursing Officer		
	Head of Communications and Corporate Affairs		
	Cleaners		
	Night Custody Officer		
	Teachers, Accountant (B)		
	Recruitment for Chairman and membership of the Parades Commission	A V Browne, media booking	37,873.88
	Recruitment of Consultant forensic pathologist	Midlands Review	495.00
	Adverts for supply of scientific equipment and services	Anderson Spratt Group	2,228.14
	Production costs and media space for Youth Conference Service TV advert	Anderson Spratt Group	47,100.00
	Unknown callers TV ad		
		None	56,597.00
	Theft from vehicles		
	Community Safety week	Anderson Spratt Group	2,228.14
	Unknown caller TV ad	Anderson Spratt Group	
	Theft from vehicles		47,100.00
		None	
		None	56,597.00
		None	15,146.41
		None	26,196.00
		None	58,338.29
			71,219.16
2006-07	Recruitment for membership of the Parades Commission and Probation Board for NI	A V Browne, media booking	24,632.99
	Recruitment campaigns for:	Anderson Spratt Group	228,391.63
	Chief Electoral Officer		
	Commissioner appointment		
	Forensic science staff		
	Consultant forensic pathologist		
	Senior Psychologist (B1)		
	Addictions Service Manager (B1)		
	Prisoner Custody Officer		
	Teacher, Accountant (B1)		
	Catering Assistant,		
	Assistant Cook		
	Senior Quantity Surveyor (B1)		
	Vocational Skills Instructor		
	Teacher		
	Assistant Cook		
	Recruitment of:		
	consultant forensic pathologist		
	Chief Executive FSNI		
	Adverts for supply of scientific equipment		
	Domestic violence*		
	Knife Carrying*		
	Project RIOH		
	Domestic Burglary		

	Advertising/marketing campaign	External agencies involved	Cost (£)
	Project RIOH		
	Theft from vehicles		
	Advertising for:		
	Consultation on Sects 41 and 8		
	PACE consultation		
	Manufacture and storage of explosives		

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145685]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of staff in the Northern Ireland Office aged 60 years or over in the last three years is detailed in the following table.

	Percentage of staff aged 60 or over
2004	2.64
2005	3.13
2006	3.54

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146423]

Paul Goggins: Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance and to drive continuous improvement in the NIO. A new performance management system was introduced in 2002 for the senior civil service. As part of this system, a non-consolidated bonus pot was established which the Cabinet Office has increased incrementally year on year. The information set out in the following table relates to the annual performance bonuses paid to NIO staff at senior civil service level between 2002 (based on the 2001-02 reporting year) and 2007 (based on the 2006-07 reporting year).

	Number of senior civil service staff who received a bonus	Total cost (£)
2002	32	72,215
2003	29	121,900
2004	36	134,100
2005	38	176,800
2006	38	239,842
2007	39	278,650

All of these bonus payments are non-consolidated and non-pensionable and therefore do not have associated future costs for paybill.

Departments: Publications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many copies of the Northern Ireland Office publication Peacemaking in Northern Ireland: A Model for Conflict Resolution were produced; what the cost was of producing the document; and to whom it was distributed. [145752]

Mr. Hain: 6,000 copies of the publication 'Peacemaking in Northern Ireland: A Model for Conflict Resolution' were produced.

The production cost for the document was £3,950 and it was distributed to a wide range of individuals and organisations locally, nationally and internationally and has been well received.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143790]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, uses the Ministry of Justice procurement systems and the Office of Government Commerce on line call off procurement services. To date Remploy have not featured in either of those sources. We are aware of the services they offer and subject to our value for money and sustainable development criteria being met would consider a Remploy tender via those procurement channels.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145980]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of working days lost within the Northern Ireland Office due to stress related illness in the last three years is as follows:

	Percentage
2003-04	21.0
2004-05	13.5
2005-06	25.5

These figures have been taken from information supplied by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

The Department takes all absences, in particular stress related illness, very seriously and is currently examining any underlying reasons.

Prisoners Release: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners released early on licence in Northern Ireland have had their licences revoked in each of the last three years; and what the reasons were for the revocation in each case. [145751]

Paul Goggins: The power to revoke the licences of prisoners released early under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998 lies with the Sentence Review Commissioners (SRC). The exercise of this power follows the suspension of the licences of those persons by the Secretary of State. The numbers of licence suspensions and revocations in each of the last three years are as follows:

	Number suspended	*Number revoked*
2004	1	—
2005	5	—
2006	3	1
2007 (as at 22 June)	1	—

All the persons whose licences have been suspended were believed to have become a danger to the public. In addition, four individuals were also believed to have become concerned again in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism—the single 2004 suspension, two of the 2005 suspensions and one of the 2006 suspensions. Furthermore, in one of the 2005 suspension cases the individual concerned was believed to have again become a supporter of a specified organisation.

The 2006 revocation decision by the SRC in one of these cases was in confirmation of the belief that that person had become a danger to the public. Determination by the SRC remains outstanding on seven of the other nine cases referred to above. Of the two other cases one licence was reinstated and the other individual died in custody.

Robert McCartney

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in the investigation into the murder of Robert McCartney. [145475]

Paul Goggins: The person charged with the murder of Mr. McCartney remains on remand. A file has been sent to the Public Prosecution Service for consideration.

PSNI advise that this remains an active investigation, with particular emphasis on the need for witnesses to come forward.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mobile speed traps operated in *(a)* each constituency and *(b)* each council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [142634]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI have advised that the information is not collated in the format requested. Information is available by district command unit which is co-terminus with council area.

District command unit (DCU)	*2004 (April[1]-December)*	*2005 (January-December)*	*2006 (January-December)*
Antrim	35	42	32
Ards	109	167	151
Armagh	10	4	17
Ballymena	55	44	27
Ballymoney	14	17	36
Banbridge	91	122	72
Carrickfergus	76	100	80
Castlereagh	282	346	350
Coleraine	19	43	24
Cookstown	5	23	18
Craigavon	8	2	8
Down	12	44	6
Dungannon and South Tyrone	12	22	47
East Belfast	197	250	171
Fermanagh	17	29	8
Foyle	55	67	49
Larne	0	0	274
Limavady	8	58	14
Lisburn	26	93	79
Magherafelt	29	44	29
Moyle	19	14	16
North Down	178	282	275
N'Abbey	102	136	78
Newry and Mourne	59	74	58
North Belfast	200	296	210
Omagh	55	70	21
South Belfast	231	269	229
Strabane	0	0	0
West Belfast	156	272	361

[1] Figures were not collated centrally until April 2004.

Notes:

1. To date Strabane has no camera safety sites and therefore nil return.
2. Larne DCU had no site in 2004 and 2005.
3. In Down DCU the vehicle was defective from November 2005 to July 2006.
4. In Fermanagh and Omagh DCUs the vehicle was defective from April 2006 to October 2006.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what correspondence he has had with internet providers about people in rural communities who cannot receive broadband and for whom dial-up connection will be phased out. [140491]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I have had no such correspondence with internet service providers.

There are currently no plans to phase out dial-up internet. The universal service obligation on BT and Kingston to provide telephony and functional internet access remains in place. This means that everyone who has a telephone connection has the potential to access a dial-up internet service. In addition to this, 99.6 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange.

The European Commission plans to review the scope of universal service next year and access to broadband is one of the issues that the Government will ensure is at the centre of the debate.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the merits of providing for Government aid to industries in need of restructuring or short-term financial assistance; and what discussions he has had with the Trades Union Congress on this matter. [143152]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* We are spending money to support industry but we only do so where the intervention will be effective in securing a sustainable future for the company. Where there are no such prospects the intervention usually distorts competition, prevents the emergence of new companies and inhibits innovation.

Support for business is available through a range of measures: Selective finance for industry (SFI), DTI business support and the R and D tax credit. Government will consider support where it helps enhance UK competitiveness and productivity.

Support for industry must be compatible with the EU rules on state aid. These increasingly favour aid for small, growth businesses and aid for research, innovation and environmental enhancement, rather than aid for companies in difficulty. The Government support this.

The Secretary of State last met the TUC to discuss state aid and support for industry champions at the TUC conference in September 2006.

Consumer Goods: Labelling

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what regulatory regime governs the display of ingredients on *(a)* alcoholic, *(b)* tobacco and *(c)* cosmetic products; and if he will make a statement. [145992]

Mr. McCartney: The Department of Trade and industry is not responsible for regulations covering alcohol or tobacco products. These are matters for the Department of Health.

As regards cosmetic products, all such products sold in the UK must comply with The Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (as amended). The regulations implement the requirements of the European Directive on cosmetic products and require that all the cosmetic products supplied to consumers must be safe under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use. They must also be labelled with a list of their ingredients in descending order of weight.

Economic Growth

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what figures his Department records relating to recent *(a)* investment levels and *(b)* business growth, broken down by constituency. [139616]

Margaret Hodge: Data on investment levels are not available at constituency level. Data are produced at regional level by the Office for National Statistics and can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/gva1003.pdf

Data on the growth in the number of VAT registered businesses in each of the 640 parliamentary constituencies, can be calculated from data published by the DTI at:

www.dtistats.net/smes/vat

For illustrative purposes this is calculated for Torbay parliamentary constituency. Between the start of 2001 and 2006 the number of VAT registered businesses in Torbay constituency increased by 135, or 6 per cent.

Data on employment and turnover growth in existing businesses are not available at constituency level. They are published by DTI at the regional level and are available at:

www.dtistats.net/smes/sme

Calculated by dividing the change in stock between 2001and 2006 by the 2001 start of year stock.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1492-3W, on Iran: export credit guarantees, when the arrangement that Ministers should be consulted before export credit cover is provided to Iran was made; and if he will make a statement. [145822]

Mr. Darling: On 13 April 2007, I asked ECGD to consult me before any new cover was provided for exports to Iran.

New Businesses: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new businesses established in Suffolk received Government funding assistance in each of the last five years. [139138]

Margaret Hodge: Unfortunately, departmental and RDA management information systems do not

differentiate between new and existing Suffolk businesses in receipt of government funding.

However, data are available for the total number of businesses in receipt of financial support in Suffolk for the five year period ending 31 March 2007 (unless otherwise stated).

(a) 85 businesses were supported via the Business Advice and Support programme. These businesses were provided with support to a maximum of £250.

(b) 7 companies received Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) and Enterprise Grant (now Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE).

(c) 18 companies received R and D Grants (formerly SMART awards) between 2003 and 2006.

(d) 299 companies received Small Firms Loans Guarantees.

In addition to which, Business Link and Local Enterprise Agencies provided advice to 2,609 new businesses to help them start-up. And Business Link Suffolk provided European Social Fund backed training to 702 businesses.

Post Offices: Reform

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the departmental annual report for 2006, page 188, J8, how much has been paid in fees to advisers in connection with the proposed restructuring of the post office network, broken down by *(a)* adviser and *(b)* category of advice; and what estimate he has made of the final overall expenditure in relation to such advice. [145996]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since December 2005, the Department has used Deloitte and Herbert Smith to provide financial and legal advice respectively relating to POL and the Government's support for the company. The individual fees for these advisers are commercially confidential. The combined final estimate for the cost of this advice is just under £800,000.

Regulations: British Overseas Territories

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will set out how each recommendation of the 1998 Edwards report into the regulation regime in Britain's overseas dependent territories has been implemented. [142481]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

The 1998 Edwards report covered Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey) and not Overseas Dependent Territories.

I understand that Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man have implemented the majority of the recommendations made in the Edwards report. More detailed information about implementation of particular recommendations can most easily be obtained through contact with the relevant Crown Dependency.

South East Development Agency: Chelsea Flower Show

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what expenditure the South East England Development Agency has undertaken in relation to the Chelsea Flower Show in each of the last three years. [142384]

Margaret Hodge: The RDA is responsible for decisions on expenditure. In 2007 South East England Development Agency spent £88,000 at Chelsea Flower Show. This expenditure included a garden in the lifelong learning section to showcase new scientific and innovative uses of plants. This was done in partnership with South East agricultural colleges and they received a gold medal for plants with industrial uses. Investment in 2006 was £10,800 which part sponsored two gardens which highlighted the importance of the horticulture sector in industry and sustainable development. They did not invest in the show in 2005.

South East Development Agency: Taxis

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the South East Development Agency has spent on taxis in the last two years for which figures are available. [142383]

Margaret Hodge: South East England Regional Development Agency (SEEDA) has several company accounts for cars and taxis. The cost for car and taxi services invoiced to them was £62,006 in 2005-06 and £79,026 in 2006-07. The contracts for the larger company accounts are tendered.

In addition, SEEDA staff have claimed for other taxi costs on individual expense claim forms, but accounting information on this is held combined with other travel and accommodation expenses and cannot be supplied due to disproportionate costs of manual disaggregation.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in Afghanistan. [143180]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 18 June, *Official Report*, columns 1069-1071.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason military personnel have been transported by road from RAF bases in Scotland to Brize Norton for deployment to theatre; and how much rest time they have been granted on arrival in theatre before commencing air patrols. [144779]

Mr. Ingram: The air-bridge to Iraq and Afghanistan operates from RAF Brize Norton. Where possible, military personnel based at Scottish RAF bases are moved to RAF Brize Norton by RAF Air Transport for onward transport to operational theatres. However, in order to make the optimum use of available aircraft this is not always possible, particularly for moves of small numbers of personnel or individuals. Guaranteeing the overseas air programme has to remain the priority.

Personnel on arrival in theatre have a minimum period of rest and acclimatisation of 48 hours prior to assignment to air patrols. This period can be reduced by operational commanders if required and it is assessed that doing so would not increase the risk to flight safety.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force were living in substitute single service accommodation in each year since 1997. [135415]

Derek Twigg: Since 1997, the number of service personnel living in Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) in Great Britain is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Army*	*Navy*	*RAF*
2006-07	2,536	1,426	906
2005-06	2,120	1,332	865
2004-05	2,006	1,328	816
2003-04	1,841	1,393	687
2002-03	1,683	1,523	587
2001-02	1,606	1,442	455
2000-01	1,382	1,281	385
1999-2000	1,048	1,573	372
1998-99	933	1,508	310
1997-98	665	1,234	199
1996-97	26	100	7

In financial year 1996-97, this Department commenced a new contract with a specialist rented property locator, to provide SSSA across Great Britain. The number of personnel living in SSSA is low for this period, as the contract commenced near the end of the financial year.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether families are allowed to view Ministry of Defence accommodation before occupying it. [141842]

Derek Twigg: The allocation system does not allow accommodation to be viewed before families move. This is currently being reviewed.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families have been moved from Modern Housing Solutions-maintained accommodation into temporary private accommodation in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [145713]

Derek Twigg: Officials are working to establish the information requested. Once information is available, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many gas leaks have been reported in Modern Housing Solutions-maintained accommodation in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [145714]

Derek Twigg: It is not possible to separately identify the number of gas leaks reported.

When occupants of service families accommodation contact Modern Housing Solutions to report a gas leak, the report is passed to Transco, who attend the property to identify the problem and make things safe.

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the duty Minister was on the day the decision was taken to allow the service personnel released by Iran to sell their stories to the media. [145148]

Des Browne: As the Secretary of State, decisions on certain issues are referred to me rather than the duty Minister. The sale of stories to the media by the service personnel released by Iran was one such issue. Between 5-7 April, the duty Minister for other issues was my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces. On 8 and 9 April, the duty Minister was my noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support.

Armed Forces: Medical Examinations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* serving personnel and *(b)* veterans passed through the Medical Assessment Programme in each year since it was established for (i) physical and (ii) mental health conditions and (iii) in total. [142853]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the future utility vehicles forming part of the Future Rapid Effect System are *(a)* expected to be air-transportable in one future A400M Aircraft and *(b)* within the whole airlift capability for a single operation. [145105]

Mr. Ingram: We expect the A400M to be able to carry one FRES utility vehicle. Airlift capacity for a single operation would be dependent on the scale, speed and distance of the deployment.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role and function of the future utility vehicle will be as part of the Future Rapid Effect System. [145106]

Mr. Ingram: These vehicles will carry out the protected mobility, command and control, light armoured support, medical, repair and recovery and driver training roles. Other elements of the Utility fleet, to be delivered in later planned increments, include specialist communications, electronic warfare and sensors vehicles.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the future rapid effect system programme will include a tracked variant of the *(a)* utility, *(b)* reconnaissance and *(c)* heavy vehicles. [144761]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* It is not envisaged that the FRES utility vehicle will be a tracked vehicle. The FRES reconnaissance and heavy requirements are however, expected to be predominantly met by tracked vehicles, although decisions regarding these vehicles will not be finalised until the main investment decision has been taken.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* development and *(b)* procurement programmes are being funded by his Department for the securing of effective armour for UK armed forces land vehicles. [145070]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1443W.

Chiefs of Staff: Powers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what strategic *(a)* planning and *(b)* supervisory roles are currently assigned to the Chiefs of Staff (i) individually and (ii) as a committee; and if he will make a statement. [144780]

Des Browne: The Chiefs of Staff Committee, chaired by the CDS, is the principal forum in which collective military advice is garnered and through which CDS discharges his responsibility for the preparation and conduct of military operations and the formulation of military strategy. CDS is also responsible for the provision of military advice to the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister. The single-Service Chiefs of Staff contribute to this role by providing advice on the employment of their respective service.

The Chiefs of Staff are also members of the Defence Management Board which directs and coordinates the delivery of core Defence outputs. As members of the Defence Management Board the Chiefs of Staff are individually accountable for the delivery of military capability generated by their Service; the fighting effectiveness and efficiency of the forces both now and in the future; and the morale of their personnel.

Defence Equipment: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which officials of the Defence Export Services Agency were interviewed by the Serious Fraud Office as part of its recent inquiry into defence sales to Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [144253]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence co-operated fully with the Serious Fraud Office investigation. As the Attorney-General said in his statement in another place on 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1712-13, 'public comment about the case must inevitably be limited in order to avoid causing unfairness to individuals who have been the subject of investigation'. The details of who was interviewed remain confidential.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Saudi Arabia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence Export Services Organisation staff work for the Saudi Armed Forces Project; what management fee was received from Saudi Arabia to cover the cost of the project in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; what in addition to salaries this fee covered; and if he will make a statement. [145424]

Des Browne: The Saudi Armed Forces Project employs 200 staff across the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. Aside from salary and salary related costs, the project's operating expenditure includes the costs of office and domestic accommodation, personnel travel and subsistence, IT and telecommunications, training and professional fees and utilities.

The project's operating expenditure is covered in full by a management fee received from the Saudi Arabian Government, but details of the fee are confidential between the two Governments. I am withholding the details as they would, or would be likely to prejudice international relations and harm the interests of the United Kingdom.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether defence contractors are under any obligations to seek ministerial clearance for payments to overseas nationals in connection with defence contracts. [144346]

Mr. Ingram: Defence contractors are not under any obligation to seek ministerial clearance for payments to overseas nationals in connection with defence sales contracts.

Iraq

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1068-69, on Iraq, on what date it was decided that troops in theatre in Iraq would not face a threat from weapons of mass destruction other than from pre-1991 stocks, chlorine bombs or similar items held by insurgents. [144355]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 June 2007]:* In the period following the formal cessation of hostilities, it was assessed that the threat to troops from weapons of mass destruction had decreased such that standard protective measures could be reduced. The precise moment will have depended on unit roles and tasks.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military personnel were (i) killed and (ii) injured in the Iraqi provinces of

(A) Al Basrah, (B) Al Muthanna, (C) Dhi Qar and (D) Maysan in each month from March 2003 to December 2005; and how many attacks on multi-national forces were recorded in each Iraqi province during that period. [139096]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The following figures are produced from the most complete record of events within Multi National Division (South East) and are for the period between March 2003 and December 2005. Each record is not specifically verified and so cannot be guaranteed to be completely accurate.

The figures include incidents that involved the employment of improvised explosive devices, rockets, mortars, rocket propelled grenades, grenades, small arms and other weapons such as petrol bombs or knives, but not the throwing of stones. Number of Attacks on MNF by Province

Years/province	*Month*	*Attacks on MNF*
2003		
Al Muthanna	March	0
	April	0
	May	0
	June	0
	July	0
	August	6
	September	0
	October	2
	November	2
	December	8
Basrah	March	0
	April	0
	May	0
	June	20
	July	29
	August	82
	September	26
	October	53
	November	25
	December	23
Dhi Qar	March	0
	April	0
	May	0
	June	1
	July	4
	August	7
	September	3
	October	2
	November	3
	December	1
Maysan	March	0
	April	0
	May	0
	June	5
	July	7
	August	12
	September	7
	October	12
	November	7
	December	8
2004		
Al Muthanna	January	0
	February	2
	March	2
	April	7
	May	10
	June	1
	July	3
	August	13
	September	2
	October	4
	November	3
	December	2
Basrah	January	1
	February	11
	March	20
	April	37
	May	86
	June	36
	July	27
	August	143
	September	76
	October	39
	November	18
	December	27
Dhi Qar	January	1
	February	7
	March	3
	April	14
	May	41
	June	9
	July	5
	August	28
	September	3
	October	8
	November	11
	December	1
Maysan	January	0
	February	3
	March	6
	April	68
	May	119
	June	51
	July	6
	August	337
	September	8
	October	6
	November	4
	December	4
2005		
Al Muthanna	January	1

Years/province	Month	Attacks on MNF
	February	3
	March	2
	April	0
	May	0
	June	3
	July	2
	August	0
	September	1
	October	1
	November	5
	December	2
Basrah	January	31
	February	9
	March	5
	April	3
	May	16
	June	6
	July	11
	August	8
	September	32
	October	24
	November	8
	December	17
DhiQar	January	4
	February	1
	March	3
	April	4
	May	1
	June	4
	July	2
	August	2
	September	3
	October	3
	November	3
	December	0
Maysan	January	4
	February	3
	March	7
	April	9
	May	9
	June	22
	July	13
	August	23
	September	8
	October	10
	November	20
	December	7

It is not possible to break down the number of persons killed and injured in each attack as requested. The total number of UK military and civilian personnel killed and injured between March 2003 and December 2005 is provided on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm.

The information on the website does not include UK civilians employed or contracted by other Government Departments or by civilian contractors. This information is not held by the MOD.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the operational ability of Lynx helicopters serving in the Persian Gulf has been affected by high air temperatures. [145574]

Mr. Ingram: The performance of all helicopters is affected by variations in air temperature, but Lynx helicopters serving in the Persian Gulf are capable of performing all their assigned tasks.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with senior members of the armed forces on the operational suitability of combat footwear issued to UK forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. [144280]

Mr. Ingram: Following comments from Telic and Herrick in June 2006, alternative boots were provided and sizing advice was offered to units. In addition, a trial to select new commercially available desert boots is due to complete during 2007. This will allow a new boot to be issued to all troops deploying in the autumn and a second alternative boot to be available from early 2008—thus offering some degree of choice. The Department has also initiated a project to introduce a web-based application for the controlled supply of personal clothing to provide service personnel with the ability to order from an online catalogue, with item(s) despatched to an address of choice. This could eventually change the way that items such as boots are provided.

Missile Defence Technology Centre

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on development of the Missile Defence Technology Centre; and if he will make a statement. [144034]

Des Browne: The UK Missile Defence Centre was founded on 18 July 2003 with a six-year mandate. It has just begun its fifth year. The Missile Defence Centre continues to focus on providing scientific and technical advice to the Ministry of Defence on strategic missile defence matters, and supports UK industrial opportunities in this area.

Nuclear Submarines: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to order an eighth SSN. [145841]

Mr. Ingram: Three Astute Class submarines are on order with BAES and a further order was placed on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 55-56WS to commence the build of the fourth boat.

Further boat orders are being considered, subject to affordability. We are working with industry as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy to achieve an affordable and sustainable submarine programme.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Secretariat (Air Staff)/ Defence Secretariat did not receive a copy of the report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena produced by the Defence Intelligence Staff; and if he will make a statement. [145883]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* The report was distributed to those areas of the Department who were considered to have most interest in the findings, including parts of the RAF.

Vanguard Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to prolong the operational life of the Vanguard class submarine beyond 30 years. [145840]

Mr. Ingram: There are no plans to extend the Vanguard submarines beyond 30 years.

Veterans Day

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which applicants have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in bids to obtain funding to mark Veterans Day 2007; and the amounts received by each. [142408]

Derek Twigg: 220 bids have been received requesting funding for Veterans Day 2007 events. Bids were assessed against well-publicised criteria setting out the objectives and key messages that events would need to support; where bids were initially non-compliant, efforts were generally made to explain how they might be modified to meet the criteria. Funding was allocated accordingly. The successful and unsuccessful applicants, together with the grants allocated to the former, are listed as follows:

Successful veterans' day bids

Organization	*Allocated (£)*
Birmingham	25,000.00
Dundee	10,000.00
Weymouth	10,000.00
Blackpool	10,000.00
Nottingham	10,000.00
National Memorial Arboretum	10,000.00
Plymouth	8,000.00
Torquay / Torbay	8,000.00
Hull	8,000.00
Cornwall RBL	8,000.00
Southend	8,000.00
Portsmouth	7,500.00
Trowbridge	7,000.00
Cardiff	7,000.00
Caernarfon	7,000.00
Liverpool (Walton)	7,000.00
Carrickfergus (N. Ireland)	7,000.00
Norwich EE Regt	6,000.00
Craigavon	6,000.00
Southport	5,400.00

Successful veterans' day bids

Organization	*Allocated (£)*
Moortown	5,000.00
Leeds	5,000.00
Wallasey	5,000.00
Sedgefield	5,000.00
Gwent County RBL	5,000.00
Coleraine	5,000.00
Bradford	4,600.00
Warminster	4,000.00
Worthing (Sussex)	4,000.00
Whitby	4,000.00
Barrow (Submarines Heritage Centre)	4,000.00
Durham	3,500.00
Chatham	3,500.00
Sleaford	3,500.00
Tipton RBL	3,500.00
New Forest (Council)	3,500.00
Essex Loughton	3,400.00
Luton	3,000.00
Basildon Essex	3,000.00
Walsall	2,500.00
Coventry and Baginton	2,500.00
Ramsgate	2,250.00
Peranporth	2,000.00
Melton Mowbray	2,000.00
Orpington (Kent) RBL	2,000.00
East Yorkshire	2,000.00
Bilston West Midlands	1,750.00
Ludlow RBL	1,500.00
Heathfield	1,500.00
Blaina RBL	1,500.00
Isle of Man	1,500.00
Conisbrough	1,250.00
Eastriggs (Annan)	1,200.00
Leicester	1,200.00
Kelso	1,150.00
Barnet council	1,100.00
Folkestone	1,000.00
Surrey RBL	1,000.00
Somerset RBL	1,000.00
Kings Lynn	1,000.00
Malton (Eden Camp)	1,000.00
Sheffield City (Council)	1,000.00
Londonderry	1,000.00
Shipdham (Norfolk)	1,000.00
Whitlesey RBL	1,000.00
Cranbourne and Winkfield RBL	1,000.00
Eyemouth RBL	1,000.00
South West Ham RBL	1,000.00
Exbury Gardens	1,000.00
Halesworth RBL	1,000.00
Ellesmere Port	1,000.00
Maldon	1,000.00
Weaverham RBL	1,000.00
Newbiggin RBL	850.00
Uckfield	800.00
Hartland RBL	800.00
Llandudno	800.00

Successful veterans' day bids

Organization	*Allocated (£)*
Livingston	790.00
Kent SSAFA	750.00
Leicester	750.00
Devon	750.00
Spore and District RBL	750.00
Penzance RBL	750.00
Isle of Wight RBL	750.00
Devon	750.00
Bootle	600.00
Tywyn and District RBL	600.00
Ashington	500.00
Manchester	500.00
Essex Benfleet	500.00
Duns Scotland	500.00
Selby	500.00
Harwich	500.00
Epsom	500.00
Halton RBL	500.00
Banbury	500.00
Standish	500.00
East Grinstead	500.00
Sheffield	500.00
Limavady RBL	500.00
Salford	500.00
Doncaster	500.00
Stratford on Avon	500.00
Bristol	500.00
Ipswich	500.00
Wakefield	352.50
Nottingham	300.00
Southgate (N London)	290.00
Brecon	250.00
Purfleet	250.00
Oakdale Junior School	200.00
Hastings and St. Leonards	150.00
Wickford RBL (Essex)	100.00

Unsuccessful veterans day bids

Abergavenny	0
Aberystwith RBL Bid 1	0
Aberystwith RBL Bid 2	0
Alvechurch (Worcester)	0
Ballymena	0
Belize RBL	0
Birkenhead	0
Birkenhead	0
Birmingham Irish Community Forum	0
Birmingham St. Mark's Community Church	0
Birmingham Shard End Local History Society	0
Birmingham Nautical Club	0
Bishop's Storford	0
Blackburn RBL	0
Blackpool	0
Bridgend	0
Bristol	0
Bristol	0
Brombrough	0
Brotton Over 60s Club	0

Successful veterans' day bids

Organization	*Allocated (£)*
Burgess Hill	0
Bury St. Edmonds	0
Caerphilly (Council)	0
Caerphilly RBL	0
Canterbury	0
Cheshire	0
Chingford RBL	0
Chislehurst RBL	0
Christchurch RBL	0
Churchstoke RBL	0
Clevedon (Somerset)	0
Coleford RBL (Glos)	0
Coleraine	0
Coleraine	0
Collingham (Leeds)	0
Crawley	0
Darlington	0
Derbyshire RBL	0
Dewsbury RBL	0
Doncaster	0
Dorset	0
Downham and Terrington RBL	0
Dudley	0
Eastbourne	0
Enfield (N London)	0
Erskine, Scotland	0
Essex	0
Fazakerley RBL	0
Fleetwood	0
Gateshead	0
Hartlepool	0
Hendon (NW London)	0
Holywell	0
Ipswich RBL	0
Isle of Man	0
Keith RBL (Scotland)	0
Lechlade	0
Leeds (Normandy Vets)	0
Leeds Bramley	0
Leominster RBL	0
Littlebourne RBL	0
Liverpool	0
Llanelli	0
London	0
Luton	0
Machynlleth RBL	0
Maidenhead	0
Middlesborough/Cleveland	0
Middlesex	0
National Mem Arboretum	0
Newbury	0
Newhaven	0
Newhaven	0
Newtownards RBL	0
Northampton	0
Northampton RBL	0
Nuneaton	0
Olney	0
Para Assoc Scotland	0
Pearl Lakes Caravan Park	0
Pelsall, West Midlands	0

Successful veterans' day bids

Organization	*Allocated (£)*
Penrith	0
Pentonville	0
Plymouth	0
Pontypridd	0
Portishead	0
Pudsey	0
Reading RMA	0
Ross and Cromarty	0
Royston RBL	0
Ruislip	0
Salford	0
Salford	0
Sandbach (Cheshire)	0
Seaham RBL	0
Spain RBL	0
Spalding	0
St. Asaph RBL	0
St. Just Town Council RBL	0
Stoke on Trent	0
Sunderland	0
Thirsk RBL	0
Todmorden	0
TRBL Surrey	0
Trebah, Cornwall	0
W Midlands HMS Sheffield	0
Waddington	0
Whittlesey	0
Wigan	0
Wigan	0
Willenhall	0

Warships: Procurement

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many jobs his Department estimates will be created in the UK through the construction of *(a)* Type 45 destroyers, *(b)* Astute class submarines and *(c)* future aircraft carriers; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of these projects on the level of skills in the work force. [128585]

Mr. Ingram: Around 8,000 personnel are currently employed by BAES and VT on surface ship and submarine business for the UK MOD in Glasgow, Barrow-in-Furness and Portsmouth. We expect current and planned programmes to ensure the retention of shipbuilding skills and expertise in the short to medium term. The Defence Industrial Strategy defined the key maritime industrial skills and capabilities we need to retain on shore to support the needs of the Royal Navy in the longer term and we are working with the shipbuilding industry to agree the core workload required to sustain these high-end design, systems engineering and combat systems integration skills across the maritime sector.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many residential properties in England the Valuation Office Agency has *(a)* dwelling house codes and *(b)* value significant codes data. [143494]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 475W, on the Valuation Office Agency, how many domestic dwellings in England are recorded by the Valuation Office as having the property attribute of having four or more bedrooms. [143501]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings in England are classified by the Valuation Office Agency with a Dwellinghouse code of CD (Caravan). [143503]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition the Valuation Office Agency uses to classify a bedroom in a domestic dwelling for council tax valuation purposes. [143650]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 475W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether a room with a lavatory and without a bath is classified as a bathroom. [143673]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144624]

Angela E. Smith: In 2002-03 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ran the following advertising and marketing campaign:

Fire Safety

The external agencies were EURO RSCG for advertising; Carat for media planning and media buying; and COI for public relations and partnership marketing. Total spend was £4.8 million.

In 2003-04 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ran the following advertising and marketing campaign:

Fire Safety

The external agencies were EURO RSCG for advertising; Carat for media planning and media buying; and COI for PR and partnership marketing. Total spend was £6.3 million.

In 2004-05 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ran the following advertising and marketing campaigns:

Fire Safety

The external agencies were EURO RSCG for advertising; Carat for media planning and media buying; and COI for public relations and partnership marketing. Total spend was £5.7million.

Elected Regional Assemblies

The external agencies were Robson Brown for design events and advertising, and Carat for media planning and buying. Total spend was £3.24 million.

In 2005-06, our predecessor department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister ran the following advertising and marketing campaigns

Fire Safety Campaign

The external agencies were EURO RSCG for advertising and COI for public relations, partnership marketing and media buying. Total spend was £4.3 million.

Part P of the Building Regulations

The external agencies were COI for media buying and Tempo for design and graphic production. Total spend was £120,000.

Home Information Packs

The external agencies were Leo Burnett for advertising; Bandon Brown for public relations and publicity; Carat for media planning; COI for media buying; and Redhouse Lane for graphic design. Total spend was £706,000.

Houses of Multiple Occupancy

The external agencies were EURO RSCG for advertising; Amazon for public relations and publicity; Carat for media planning; and COI for media buying. Total spend was £1.4 million.

Figures for advertising and marketing campaigns in the financial year 2006-07 were published in the Department's Annual Report on 17 May 2007, which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Figures for external agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and may save lives, as with Fire Safety. They must be communicated effectively to meet our duty to inform and in order for policies to be successful. There are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in her Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145969]

Angela E. Smith: In each of the last three years the percentage of sick leave which is recorded as stress related is; 2006-07: 8.7 per cent., 2005-06: 8.6 per cent., 2004-05: 8.2 per cent.

Our staff handbook provides information for staff and managers on stress in the workplace. The Department offers counselling and support services to staff and guidance to managers on minimising stress.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [142028]

Angela E. Smith: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2005 and 2006 surveys are available on the Civil Service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions *(a)* retained appliances have been off the run due to lack of staffing and *(b)* other appliances have then been mobilised as a result for each fire authority in each of the last five years. [146155]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of all valid operational guidance issued to fire and rescue authorities. [146156]

Angela E. Smith: The Department is currently in the process of reviewing all operational guidance issued to the fire and rescue service. As it is likely that this project will result in the review, re-issue or withdrawal of some of the considerable body of existing guidance, it is my view that placing all operational guidance in the Library now would not be a good use of resources. Recently issued Operational Guidance for the Fire and Rescue Service is available on the Communities and Local Government website, and a substantial proportion of older guidance such as Fire and Rescue Service Manuals is available from the Stationery Office. In the medium term, I would see guidance being made available electronically and, as this is of an operational nature, I have no plans to place this in the Library.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Centre of Excellence for the Fire Service will be created; and what consultation her Department has held with the Fire Brigades Union on the matter. [146157]

Angela E. Smith: Proposals for a Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service are being developed with a view to consultation in the autumn. A decision on whether to create a new body will be taken

following consultation. All the Fire and Rescue Service trade unions, including the Fire Brigades Union are represented on the Sounding Board established by the Fire and Rescue Service Practitioners Forum to consider Centre of Excellence proposals.

Fire Services: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from what point response times are measured for the fire service in each regional control centre area. [146154]

Angela E. Smith: The Regional Control Centre network will record response times from the point at which the public telecommunications operator routes a call to the regional control centres.

Housing: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were *(a)* constructed for private sale, *(b)* built by housing associations and *(c)* built by local authorities in each London borough in each of the last three years. [145491]

Yvette Cooper: Information on new house building activity by tenure, in London, between 2004-05 and 2006-07 is set out in the following tables. The figures on total and local authority dwellings are as reported from building control inspections by local authorities and the National Housebuilding Council. The figures on registered social landlords (RSLs) are based on information from the Housing Corporation and refer to new social rent only and exclude acquisitions and intermediate (e.g. low cost home ownership) housing.

The two sources are not directly comparable which means that timing differences may result in the RSL dwellings exceeding the total dwellings for some years in particular authorities.

House building: permanent dwellings completed by tenure, London

	2004-05			
	Private	*Registered social landlords*[1]	*Local authorities*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	466	110	0	576
Barnet	1,186	140	0	1,326
Bexley	207	14	0	221
Brent	234	156	0	390
Bromley	828	46	0	874
Camden	361	138	0	499
City of London	21	24	0	45
Croydon	291	100	0	391
Ealing	434	171	0	605
Enfield	333	191	0	524
Greenwich	1,466	110	0	1,576
Hackney	323	202	0	525
Hammersmith and Fulham	122	159	0	281
Haringey	449	120	0	569
Harrow	203	35	0	238
Havering	388	69	0	457
Hillingdon	389	84	0	473
Hounslow	703	74	0	777
Islington	—	167	0	166
Kensington and Chelsea	112	8	0	120
Kingston upon Thames	298	127	0	425
Lambeth	461	91	0	552
Lewisham	160	341	0	501
Merton	513	88	0	601
Newham	356	197	0	553
Redbridge	607	43	0	650
Richmond upon Thames	400	112	0	512
Southwark	1,578	254	0	1,832
Sutton	481	189	0	670
Tower Hamlets	2,796	156	0	2,952
Waltham Forest	265	28	0	293
Wandsworth	1,170	90	0	1,260
Westminster (City of)	361	142	0	503

	2005-06			
	Private	*Registered social landlords*[1]	*Local authorities*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	284	183	0	467
Barnet	381	216	0	597
Bexley	94	46	0	140
Brent	106	145	0	251
Bromley	175	199	0	374
Camden	347	53	0	400
City of London	—	178	0	41
Croydon	244	156	0	400
Ealing	525	177	0	702
Enfield	536	167	0	703
Greenwich	959	114	0	1,073
Hackney	246	107	0	353
Hammersmith and Fulham	65	66	0	131
Haringey	—	220	0	79
Harrow	262	13	0	275
Havering	480	6	0	486
Hillingdon	232	70	4	306
Hounslow	1,098	94	0	1,192
Islington	185	198	0	383
Kensington and Chelsea	41	34	0	75
Kingston upon Thames	184	4	0	188
Lambeth	375	284	0	659
Lewisham	256	184	0	440
Merton	853	95	0	948
Newham	623	173	0	796
Redbridge	934	29	0	963

	2005-06			
	Private	Registered social landlords[1]	Local authorities	Total
Richmond upon Thames	323	60	0	383
Southwark	906	214	0	1,120
Sutton	179	221	0	400
Tower Hamlets	1,252	666	0	1,918
Waltham Forest	148	108	0	256
Wandsworth	329	9	0	338
Westminster (City of)	172	243	0	415

	2006-07			
	Private	Registered social landlords[1]	Local authorities	Total
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	0	684
Barnet	—	—	0	377
Bexley	—	—	0	212
Brent	—	—	0	632
Bromley	—	—	0	484
Camden	—	—	0	378
City of London	—	—	0	2
Croydon	—	—	0	845
Ealing	—	—	0	1,325
Enfield	—	—	0	998
Greenwich	—	—	0	1,134
Hackney	—	—	0	420
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	0	202
Haringey	—	—	0	35
Harrow	—	—	0	320
Havering	—	—	0	650
Hillingdon	—	—	2	194
Hounslow	—	—	0	1,556
Islington	—	—	0	743
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	0	139
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	0	172
Lambeth	—	—	0	942
Lewisham	—	—	0	457
Merton	—	—	0	646
Newham	—	—	0	471
Redbridge	—	—	0	513
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	0	159
Southwark	—	—	0	512
Sutton	—	—	0	455
Tower Hamlets	—	—	0	1,904
Waltham Forest	—	—	0	394
Wandsworth	—	—	0	722
Westminster (City of)	—	—	0	211

[1] Figures shown for registered social landlords exclude intermediate housing which is classified as private. Figures are new build only and exclude dwellings gained through acquisitions.

Note

Information needed to determine the full tenure breakdown in 2006-07 is currently unavailable.

Source:

P2 and HSSA returns from local authorities and the National Housebuilding Council (NHBC)/Housing Corporation.

Local Government

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by *(a)* local authorities in England and *(b)* City of York council on employing staff, including education staff, in (i) 2002-03 and (ii) 2005-06; and what the percentage change was in expenditure on staff over that period. [106478]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is listed in the following table.

	Employee expenditure[1]		
	2002-03 (£ billion)	2005-06 (£ billion)	Between 2002-03 and 2005-06[2] (Percentage change)
City of York council	0.106	0.139	31.1
England	44.345	55.515	25.2

[1] Total expenditure on employees as reported by authorities to Communities and Local Government on revenue outturn (RO) forms. This includes all direct and indirect employee expenses and contributions to employee-related provisions, including national insurance contributions, pensions and employee related expenses.

[2] Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changes in the method of reporting the information. In particular, the outturn data for 2002-03 have been calculated on a non-FRS (financial reporting standard) 17 basis whilst the outturn data for 2005-06 have been calculated on an FRS 17 basis. Hence, figures for the different years may not be directly comparable.

Local Government Finance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority population estimates used in the calculations to inform the 2007-08 local government funding settlement have been more than 5,000 people lower than official estimates of the population in those authorities. [109360]

Mr. Woolas: The 2007-08 Settlement uses population projections data for 2007 produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as the key driver of population in the settlement calculations. For all data used in settlement calculations we have to use the best data available on a consistent basis for all authorities that are available at the time of making the settlement. At the time of making the multi-year settlements for 2006-07 and 2007-08, the best population projections data available were the 2003-based sub-national population projections produced by the ONS. These data were published on 25 November 2004.

The most recently published ONS mid-year population estimates are those for mid-2005, published on 24 August 2006.

Comparing the two sets of data: 12 local authorities, five police authorities and four fire and rescue authorities have their 2003-based projected population data for 2007 5,000 or more lower than their mid-2005 population estimate.

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities met the deadline of 31 May 2007 to apply for directions to capitalise equal pay back pay from 2007-08. [146190]

Mr. Woolas: We have received applications from the following authorities, all of which met the deadline:

Basildon
Bedfordshire
Bexley
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Brighton and Hove
Bromley
Bury
Cheshire
City of Nottingham
Cumbria
Darlington
Daventry
Dudley
Greenwich
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Havering
Kingston upon Hull
Knowsley
Leeds
Lewisham
Luton
Merton
Middlesbrough
Newark and Sherwood
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North Tyneside
Northamptonshire
Oldham
Peterborough
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Preston
Redcar and Cleveland
Rotherham
Salford
Sefton
Sheffield
South Tyneside
Stafford
Staffordshire
Stevenage
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Trafford
Wakefield
Waltham Forest
Warrington
Wear Valley
Wirral
Wolverhampton
York

Local Government Finance: Swindon

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much was provided in grants from central Government to Swindon borough council in 2006-07; [131821]

(2) how much she expects to be provided in grants from central Government to Swindon borough council in 2007-08. [131851]

Mr. Woolas: The amount of Government grant Swindon borough council budgeted to receive in 2006-07 and is budgeting to receive in 2007-08 is tabled as follows.

£000

	Revenue support grant	*Redistributed non-domestic rates*	*Specific and special grants inside aggregate external finance*
2006-07[1]	7,190	37,248	134,276
2007-08[2]	6,526	38,885	n/a

Sources:
[1] Communities and Local Government Revenue Account Budget Return
[2] Communities and Local Government Budget Requirement Return

Budget estimates for specific and special grants inside aggregate external finance in 2007-08 are not yet available.

Figures exclude grants outside aggregate external finance (i.e. where funding is not for the authority's core services, but is passed to a third party; for example, as in the case of mandatory student awards), capital grants, funding for the local authority's housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where the authority is simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Local Government: Reform

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the impact on coterminosity of boundaries between primary care trusts and local government areas will be a criterion for assessing new local government structure proposals. [146152]

Mr. Woolas: The criteria for assessing councils' unitary proposals were set out in the "Invitations to councils in England" published in October 2006.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many best value performance indicators in total have been required of local authorities in each year since the introduction of Best Value. [145522]

Mr. Woolas: Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) were introduced in 2000-01. Details of the number of BVPIs that have been set for local authorities in each year since then are set out in the table.

	Number
2000-01	189
2001-02	123
2002-03	93
2003-04	98
2004-05	97
2005-06	94
2006-07	90
2007-08	86

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shire counties moved to a rating for excellent in the comprehensive performance assessment by the Audit Commission in the last 12 months; and if she will list them. [146150]

Mr. Woolas: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 27 June 2007:

Your parliamentary question on how many shire counties moved to a rating for excellent in the comprehensive performance assessment by the Audit Commission in the last 12 months and your request to list them has been passed to me for reply.

Under section 99 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Audit Commission has a duty, from time to time, to report on its findings and categorise English local authorities according to their performance in exercising their functions. CPA is the tool that the Commission uses to fulfil this duty.

In 2005 the Audit Commission revised the CPA framework in response to changes in the operational and regulatory environment, rising public expectations, and the performance of local government itself. Because the framework from 2005 is both a harder and a different test the CPA categories were renamed to reflect this change. As a result single tier and county councils are no longer categorised as excellent, good, fair, weak or poor. The five new categories introduced from 2005 were 4 stars (reflecting the highest category of performance), 3 stars, 2 stars, 1 star and 0 stars.

National CPA reporting for single tier and county councils last took place in February 2007. At the time of reporting there were eight county councils that improved their overall CPA category to 4 star. These councils were:

(a) Cheshire

(b) Dorset

(c) Norfolk

(d) North Yorkshire

(e) Oxfordshire

(f) Suffolk

(g) West Sussex

(h) Wiltshire

Following national reporting in February 2007, Somerset County Council was re-categorised as 4 star as part of the Audit Commission's quarterly reporting arrangements in March 2007 following a corporate assessment.

Further information about the CPA framework and scores is available at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Non-Domestic Rates

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance or training manual produced by the Valuation Office Agency for its staff on undertaking assessment casework for business rates valuations. [143670]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the funding for the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund is additional funding that was not previously granted to local authorities in previous years through other named funds. [141757]

Ruth Kelly: The £6 million funding for the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund was sourced from the New Ventures Fund.

Travellers

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which company is making good the work on the Travellers' site at Ecton Lane following the completion of the refurbishment contract. [146003]

Meg Munn: Westgate Technical Services Ltd. have been issued with a comprehensive schedule of the remedial works needed to achieve the requirements set out in the contract specification. They have been asked to complete these works within three weeks. Work on perimeter fencing and floodlighting is being undertaken by separate contractors.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is responsible for the management of the Ecton Lane Travellers' site. [146004]

Meg Munn: Northampton borough council own and are ultimately responsible for the Ecton Lane Travellers' site.

The day to day management of the site was undertaken by Westgate Management Services Ltd. until 13 April 2007. I understand that the Gypsy Council was awarded a short term contract for the day to day management of the site from 1 May 2007, while long-term arrangements are put in place.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Valuation Office Agency's electronic image management bespoke application went live for operational use. [111963]

Mr. Woolas: The VOA's existing electronic image management system "Digital Photography" was implemented in 2004.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total estimated expenditure has been by the Valuation Office Agency on its automated valuation model on *(a)* consultancy costs, *(b)* payments to CapGemini and CLT, *(c)* hardware costs, *(d)* staffing costs and *(e)* other costs. [111966]

Mr. Woolas: Prior to postponement of the council tax revaluation in England, announced in September 2005, expenditure on developing the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) automated valuation model (AVM) amounted to some £10 million. Since that time approximately £3.2 million has been spent by the VOA on consultancy and IT development, hardware and support costs associated with securing the investment in the AVM. This will allow the AVM to be used as a support for the Agency's day-to-day work, including maintenance of council tax valuation lists. Staffing costs since postponement associated with developing and maintaining the AVM are not recorded separately.

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council: Dismissal

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that the District Auditor's report on the dismissal by Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council of Peter Francis and related matters is published by the end of June 2007; and if she will make a statement. [145187]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* Publication of this report is a matter for the District Auditor. The Government will carry out a full assessment of the report at the earliest opportunity.

HEALTH

Cancer: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding from the public purse was provided for cancer treatment research in each year since 1992. [145354]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect expenditure data at the level requested. The available information on total expenditure by the Department on cancer research is shown in the table. Details of individual projects supported in the national health services can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

	£ million
1997-98	53
1998-99	75.4
1999-2000	77.4
2000-01	83.8
2001-02	113.4
2002-03	124.1
2003-04	139.8
2004-05	150.3
2005-06	168

The Research Councils are also important funders of cancer research. The research councils are independent bodies funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

Since 2001, the major funders of cancer research in the United Kingdom, including the Department and the Medical Research Council, have been working in partnership to streamline cancer research in the UK for the benefit of cancer patients. This partnership, the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), has the role of maintaining strategic oversight of cancer research in the UK, identifying gaps and opportunities and co-ordinating the funding activities of the partner organisations.

The NCRI's most recent strategic analysis of the directly funded cancer research supported by Government and charities showed that, as at 1 April 2004, 19 per cent. of total funding was dedicated to supporting research on cancer treatment. The analysis forms part of the Institute's three-year progress report 2001-04 and is available at www.ncri.org.uk.

Cholesterol: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on the effects of cholesterol on the health of older people; and if she will make a statement. [146316]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not received any representations regarding the effects of cholesterol on the health of older people.

However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is due to consult on draft recommendations on cardiovascular risk assessment and the modification of blood lipids (cholesterol) for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD). The consultation will be open until 22 August 2007.

The draft guideline is expected to address the issue of identifying those most likely to be at higher risk of developing CVD. Age is one of the risk factors involved.

Community Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has for community health care services in Coventry. [145357]

Caroline Flint: Decisions about community health care services in Coventry need to be taken locally with the involvement of local people. However, we know from the listening exercise that preceded the "Our

health, our care, our say" White Paper that the public want more local and convenient care closer to home even where that means changes to local hospital services.

Diabetes

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were diagnosed with diabetes, broken down by type, in each year since 1997. [146221]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of children and adults with diabetes is not available in the exact form requested. The following information is available for diagnosed diabetes. The total number of patients aged 17 and over on practice registers in England who have an appropriate diabetes diagnosis in 2004-05 was 1.77 million people (Source: 2004-05 Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data published by the Information Centre for health and social care.) This is the first year of data from this source.

The total number of patients aged 17 and over on practice registers in England who have an appropriate diabetes diagnosis in 2005-06 was 1.89 million people. (Source: 2005-06 QOF data published by the Information Centre for health and social care.)

It is estimated that over 90 per cent. of people with diabetes have type two diabetes.

Notes:

The difference between 1.77 million in 2004-05 and 1.89 million in 2005-06 does not mean that extra 0.12 million patients were diagnosed within those 12 months. The figures are a function of diagnosis recording on practice registers, and therefore were subject to data quality review in that period, as the QOF was being established.

Patients with diabetes aged under 17 are not included because they are regarded as receiving their diabetes management in the secondary care sector.

Health Professions: Employment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* midwives, *(b)* doctors, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* occupational therapists and *(e)* physiotherapists who have graduated or completed their training since May 2006 have (i) obtained and (ii) not obtained NHS jobs in the field in which they trained in each English region. [146011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the most recent figures are for the financial position of *(a)* the Mid Essex Hospital Trust and *(b)* the Mid Essex primary care trust; [145930]

(2) when she expects *(a)* the Mid Essex Hospital Trust and *(b)* the Mid Essex primary care trust to reach a break-even financial position. [145931]

Andy Burnham: At quarter four 2006-07 Mid Essex National Health Service Hospital Trust had a provisional outturn deficit of £1.3 million and Mid Essex primary care trust (PCT) had a provisional outturn deficit of £17.8 million.

Although the NHS overall delivered a net surplus of £510 million in 2006-07, we recognise that a small number of organisations continue to face significant financial challenges.

Financial recovery is only possible if clinicians and managers work together to deliver savings, increase efficiency and reduce deficits. Despite financial difficulties, all parts of the NHS are consistently delivering for patients against national priorities.

We have received financial plans for 2007-08 and these are now subject to final validation and sign-off with the NHS. At this stage, Mid Essex PCT is aiming to reach break-even position in this current financial year and Mid Essex NHS Hospital Trust aiming to recover its break-even duty by 2009.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding she provided for prison healthcare in each of the last three years. [145355]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last three years, the amount spent on medical and psychiatric care for prisoners in England has increased as follows:

Expenditure on prison healthcare in England 2004-05 to 2006-07[1]

	£
2004-05	158,002,000
2005-06	177,511,000
2006-07	[2]189,319,000

[1] The figures quoted include amount spend on mental health in-reach services in both publicly and privately managed prisons. [2] The figure for 2006-07 also includes an amount to cover the cost of implementing Agenda for Change, backdated to October 2004, for prison healthcare staff who have transferred to the NHS. *Source:* Department of Health Notes:

The 2007-08 allocation currently stands at £198,999,000. This figure will increase based on additional funding from the National Offender Management Service to reflect in-year changes in prison capacity.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of access to *(a)* prescription medicines and *(b)* psychiatric care prisoners have. [145356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to providing a health service to prisoners that is equivalent in quality and range to that in the wider community. Prisoners are entitled to the same range and quality of services provided and commissioned by the national health service as is received by the general public.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) which host prisons became responsible for commissioning services to meet the healthcare needs of prisoners in April 2006.

In each prison, a patient focused, primary care based pharmacy service, based on identified need, should be provided to prisoners as recommended in the document 'A Pharmacy Service for Prisoners' (Department of Health 2003). Copies have been placed in the Library, and are available on the Department's website.

Similarly, for mental health services, all prisoners receive health screening on reception into prison. Prisoners who are identified as needing further psychiatric help can be referred to a mental health in-reach team, who will arrange further assessment and follow up referral.

Investment in prison mental health in-reach services has been steadily increasing, with nearly £20 million invested in these services each year since 2004-05, and 360 whole time equivalent staff employed, more than the initial commitment in the NHS Plan to create 300 posts.

People who are mentally too ill to remain in prison should be transferred to hospital. We have introduced tighter monitoring to identify prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period for transfer to hospital, and a protocol was issued to prisons and primary care trusts in October 2005 setting out what must be done when a prisoner has been waiting for a hospital place for more than three months following acceptance by the NHS.

These measures have helped bring about positive results. In 2006, 33 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 961 from 723. There has been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer—in the quarter ending March 2007, 40 prisoners were waiting, down from 51 in the same quarter in 2005.

Heart Diseases: Health Education

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the trainers proposed in the 2004 White Paper, Choosing Health, Making Healthy Choices Easier, will be trained to give advice on lifestyle changes and minimising the risks of cardiovascular disease; and if she will make a statement. [146117]

Caroline Flint: Health trainers are trained to meet a mandatory set of core competences. Skills for Health has worked with representatives from the British Psychological Society and for the Department to take forward the development of national competences for the role of health trainer.

The competences have been quality assured and approved as national occupational standards.

Health trainers focus on enabling people to change their behaviour in relation to a number of lifestyle factors such as smoking, reducing alcohol intake, physical exercise, healthy eating, all of which would help minimise the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Hospital Beds: Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospitals Trust

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds are available within the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospital Trust; and if she will make a statement. [146206]

Andy Burnham: In 2005-06, the latest period for which data is available, there was an average daily number of 873 available beds provided by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. These consisted of beds open overnight and day only beds.

Source:

Department of Health KH03 return.

Infant Mortality

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births took place at *(a)* Sussex County hospital, Brighton, *(b)* Worthing hospital, *(c)* St Richards hospital, Chichester, *(d)* the Conquest hospital, Hastings, *(e)* Eastbourne hospital and *(f)* Princess Royal, Haywards Heath in 2006; and what the peri-natal mortality rate was for children born at each of the above hospitals in each of the last three years. [145844]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 June 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many births took place in 2006 in *(a)* Sussex County hospital, Brighton; *(b)* Worthing hospital; *(c)* St Richards Hospital, Chichester; (d) The Conquest hospital, Hastings; *(e)* Eastbourne hospital; and *(f)* Princess Royal hospital, Haywards Heath; and what the peri-natal mortality rate was for children born at each of the above hospitals. (145844)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available data by place of birth are for 2005 and are shown in the following table .

Number of live births—2005

Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	3,142
Worthing Hospital	2,441
St Richards Hospital, Chichester	2,208
The Conquest Hospital, Hastings	1,539
Eastbourne Hospital	1,758
Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath	2,122

The peri-natal mortality rate is defined as stillbirths and deaths aged under one week per 1,000 live and stillbirths. Peri-natal mortality rates by hospital are not available for reasons of confidentiality of stillbirth information.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to assess Dasatinib for the treatment of chronic lymphoblastic leukaemia *(a)* in the first instance and *(b)* after prior therapy with Imatinib; how many representations she has received on Dasatinib; and if she will make a statement. [145995]

Caroline Flint: Dasatinib is licensed for the treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated or blast phase chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including Imatinib. Dasatinib is also licensed for the treatment of adults with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and lymphoid blast CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy. The Department has no plans to commission a further assessment of Dasatinib at this time.

It will be for primary care trusts at a local level to decide whether to make this drug available to patients who might benefit from it.

The Department has received a number of representations about Dasatinib in the form of written correspondence and parliamentary questions.

Maternity Services: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of maternity services at the Conquest hospital in East Sussex. [145800]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for the local national health service, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to plan, develop and improve services. Local solutions will meet the needs of local patients and communities. However, any proposed changes to services will only happen after full public consultation with local people.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost has been of establishing an NHS hospital as a foundation trust. [146252]

Andy Burnham: Information on the cost of a national health service trust preparing an application for NHS foundation trust (NHSFT) status is not held centrally, as costs will vary from trust to trust.

The decision on when to apply for foundation status is one which is taken locally. Applicant trusts are responsible for meeting the costs associated with their application and establishment as a NHSFT. The continued rollout of NHSFTs provides for the sharing of information and best practice between applicants and NHSFTs. The Department also continues to provide a centrally provided programme of support.

Obesity

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were classed as clinically obese, broken down by (i) strategic health authority and (ii) primary care trust in each year since 1997. [146119]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on adult obesity prevalence by strategic health authority (SHA) is collected in the Health Survey for England (HSE). For adults, we can provide age standardised data for the years 1997-99 to 2000-02, and observed values for 2002-04. Age-standardised figures take account of the age profile of the population living in an area, making for more reliable comparisons between areas, whereas observed values do not. This information is given in Table 1, which has been placed in the Library.

Estimates of prevalence of obesity amongst adults based on 2000-02 data by primary care organisation (PCO) are also available. PCO represent both primary care trusts (PCTs), and care trusts. These estimates represent the prevalence of obesity for any PCO based on the population characteristics of that area. The estimates have been generated using a model-based method that combined individual-level data from the Health Survey for England (HSE) with area-level measures of population characteristics from the 2001 Census and from administrative datasets. The estimates of prevalence along with associated confidence intervals by PCO are provided in Table 2, which has been placed in the Library.

Data on obesity prevalence among children is not available by SHA or PCT. However, data on obesity prevalence by Government Office Region is available from the HSE and we are able to provide data for 2002-04 combined. This information is given in Table 3, which has been placed in the Library.

Psychology: Waiting Lists

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government have set waiting times for access to psychological therapies on the NHS. [142109]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Currently no waiting times targets for access to psychological therapies have been set by the Department. The two Improving Access to Psychological Therapy (IAPT) demonstration sites have made significant progress in reducing local waiting times and improving access to effective services. In addition, 10 new IAPT pathfinder sites are soon to be developed to increase access to treatment. These sites will test out proposed standards including appropriate access times for different stages of treatment as detailed in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines.

Strokes: Rehabilitation

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to increase funding allocated to research into the long-term care and rehabilitation of people who have had a stroke; and if she will make a statement. [146064]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" will result in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. In particular, the Oxford and Newcastle Biomedical Research Centres, formed this year, propose to undertake research on stroke for which a five year centrally funded budget of some £5 million has been approved. Other biomedical research centres will undertake research on stroke as part of broader-based research themes.

In addition, the Department's National Institute for Health Research has recently awarded five stroke-related programme grants with a total value of £7 million, and is investing £20 million over five years in the UK Stroke Research Network set up in 2005. The network is supporting clinical trials and other well designed studies conducted by public and private sector funders.

Tuberculosis: Immigrants

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are made for the screening for tuberculosis of immigrants arriving *(a)* legally and *(b)* illegally if apprehended at the Port of Dover. [136735]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 May 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Immigrants arriving at Dover will already have passed through the juxtaposed border control in Continental Europe. If the arriving passengers are residents of a country where pre-entry screening is required then they will already have been screened for tuberculosis.

Illegal entrants who are apprehended at Dover may be detained at a police station and would be referred for a medical examination if necessary. If detained at an immigration removal centre they are required under the Detention Centre Rules 2001 to be given a medical examination within 24 hours of admission subject to their consent.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since establishment; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million. [146324]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 23 October 2006, *Official Report,* column 1626W.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143886]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Staff in my Office are seconded from the Department for Communities and Local Government, and I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 2099W.

Departments: Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1671W, on what date the Deputy Prime Minister last attended a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. [145474]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I last attended a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee on Europe (JMC(E)) in July 2005.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department since its establishment were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over; [143893]

(2) what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143910]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As stated in the departmental Annual Report, copies of which are available in the Library of the House, my Office employed 19.8 full-time equivalent staff. Of these, 40 per cent. were female and 60 per cent. were male. Where the information requested results in figures of less than five this is not released in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each year since establishment. [145972]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 May 2007, *Official Report,* column 536W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter to him from Buckinghamshire county council of 22 March 2006, which enclosed a petition from residents of Aylesbury and the Bypass Aylesbury Now Group, and which was followed up by a letter to his office from Buckinghamshire county council, dated 26 April 2007. [142839]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The issues raised in the correspondence were discussed when my noble Friend Baroness Andrews met with representatives of the local authority and others on 20 April 2006. We have no record of the letter dated 26 April 2007.

West Indies

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of his recent trip to the West Indies. [145099]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500, along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2007-08 will be published as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 28 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration the Valuation Office Agency and her Department have given to the merits of moving to annual revaluations for business rates. [114754]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers have not considered this issue.

Fire Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects regional directors to be appointed for each of the regional control centres; and what the target date is for the establishment of each regional control centre company under the Fire Control Project. [146737]

Angela E. Smith: Each company must have its directors appointed prior to being formally incorporated by Companies House. The appointment of the company directors is for Fire and Rescue Authorities in each region.

The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2006-08 set out target dates for the establishment of local authority controlled companies to operate regional control centres. These were by 1 August 2006 in the South West, East Midlands and North East; by 1 January 2007 in the West Midlands, North West and South East; and by 1 May 2007 in Yorkshire and Humberside and the East of England.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the staffing model to be produced for each of the regional control centre companies; what change in job numbers she expects to result from the transition to regional control centres; and how many temporary staff are currently employed in each region. [146738]

Angela E. Smith: The staff numbers contained within the latest version of the business case, published on 14 June, are outlined in the following table, together with current control room staffing levels. The numbers include control room operators as well as data and gazetteer specialists and operational managers. The actual number of staff employed by each regional control centre (RCC) will be for the RCC company to determine.

	Current FRS control rooms 2005-06	*Planned RCC numbers*
East Midlands	125	81
East of England	147	85
London	112	114
North West	200	103
North East	107	76
South East	266	93
South West	155	85
West Midlands	150	91
Yorks and Humb	143	86
Total	1,405	814

All numbers are in terms of full time equivalents. For staff who are unlikely to be able to transfer to an RCC, FRAs have been encouraged to find alternative jobs, and where appropriate, to provide retraining. Costs of redeployment and retraining will be borne by the Department, within reason. The Department seeks to avoid compulsory redundancies where possible.

The staffing model assumptions are being reviewed. The indicative staff numbers for each regional control centre resulting from this review will be made available by the end of October 2007.

We do not have information on numbers of temporary staff employed within each region.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place the business case for the Fire Control Project in the Library. [146739]

Angela E. Smith: Version 1.0 of the FiReControl Project's Full Business Case was sent to Fire and Rescue Authorities on 8 June 2007. It was made available on the project's website on 11 June. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: Radio

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the specification of the Firelink project; and what recent consultation she has held with relevant staff and trade unions. [145998]

Angela E. Smith: The specification of the Firelink project was determined in advance of the contract being awarded in March 2006, and installation of the infrastructure for Firelink has commenced. Representative bodies sit on the Firelink Stakeholder Group which last met on 29 March 2007.

Housing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of households in the UK living in *(a)* boats, *(b)* caravans or camper vans, *(c)* tents and *(d)* makeshift accommodation; and if she will make a statement. [146216]

Meg Munn: Information is not held centrally identifying households in these categories.

Counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/586/TableICountofGypsyandTravellercaravansonl8January2007Lastfivecounts_idl153586.xls

Counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in Wales are available at:

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing-2007/hdw200704111/?lang=en

The 2001 Census identified 93,844 households in England and Wales living in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure, in an unshared dwelling.

Non-Domestic Rates: Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W, on non-domestic rates: agriculture, whether she plans to review the exemption from business rates for agricultural land and agricultural buildings under Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. [137436]

Mr. Woolas: The exemption of agricultural land and buildings will be considered as part of the wider review of non-domestic rate reliefs and exemptions announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement on 21 March.

Tax Rates and Bands: Agriculture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government has to re-rate agricultural land and buildings. [141644]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, (PQ 137436).

Tetra: Health Hazards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has carried out into the potential long-term health implications of using *(a)* hand-held radio schemes using the Tetra system and *(b)* vehicles fitted with Tetra masts and radios. [145999]

Angela E. Smith: Government commissioned a comprehensive programme of research following the Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation report published in July 2001. The main conclusion of this research is that Tetra technology is unlikely to present a risk to health. Imperial College is continuing with a long-term health monitoring study of police users of Tetra technology.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is commissioning work to consider if any aspects of the introduction of Tetra in a Fire and Rescue Service environment need further consideration.

Village Halls: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support she plans to make available for the protection and enhancement of village halls following her recent announcement on community assets. [139289]

Mr. Woolas: The independent Quirk Review of community management and ownership of public assets, published by The Department for Communities and Local Government on 15 May, was primarily concerned with removing barriers to the transfer of surplus public assets to communities.

The majority of village halls are in fact already in the management or ownership of community-led committees, and while recognising the enormous contribution they make to the well-being of their communities, the Government believe that their primary sources of revenue support should be their users and other local funding sources.

Continuing practical advice and help is available to village hall management committees from Village Hall Advisors employed by Rural Community Councils, which are supported through the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Rural Social and Community Programme.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* funded organisations and *(b)* project to project grants will be affected by the reduction in Arts Council England forecast funding. [146314]

Mr. Lammy: No decision has yet been taken by Arts Council England on its future lottery budgets.

Decisions about grant in aid for Arts Council England will be taken as part of the comprehensive spending review later this year.

Gaming Machines: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the summary of responses to the consultation on the section 240 machine regulations under the Gambling Act 2005 will be published; and when the regulations will be laid. [146253]

Mr. Caborn: The Gaming Machine (Circumstances of Use) Regulations to be made under section 240 of the Gambling Act 2005 will be laid in Parliament in August 2007. The regulatory impact assessment which will accompany the regulations will include a summary of responses to the consultation and will be published on the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk when the regulations are laid.

Licensing: Fees and Charges

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she plans to publish a response to the Report of the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel; and if she will make a statement. [146070]

Mr. Lammy: The question of fee levels and the recovery of any local authority overspend is a matter which needs to be agreed with other Government colleagues. We are currently assessing the implications of all the panel's detailed conclusions and recommendations and hope to publish a response shortly.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether an 80,000 seat stadium at the Olympic Park is required in order to fulfil the London 2012 host city contract. [146071]

Mr. Caborn: Yes. The commitment made to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the London 2012 Candidate File was for the Stadium to have an 80,000 seat capacity during the games.

Tourism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with devolved authorities on development of a single UK tourism strategy. [146204]

Mr. Lammy: Tourism is a devolved matter. Discussions take place with all tourism partners to co-ordinate strategies. The 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games present great opportunities for all tourism bodies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

DCMS will also shortly publish a Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games. The devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and their national tourism bodies, were consulted in developing the Strategy.

The Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly are also represented on the Ministerial Advisory Group which has, since early 2006, helped to shape the emerging strategic approach.

DEFENCE

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much depleted uranium ammunition has been used by British forces in *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick since 2003. [145952]

Des Browne: Approximately 1.9 tonnes of depleted uranium ammunition was expended by UK forces in the early phases of Operation Telic in 2003. There has been no depleted uranium ammunition used in Operation Telic since this time. No depleted uranium ammunition has been used by UK forces in Operation Herrick since 2003.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Public Expenditure

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much Government funding was allocated to third sector organisations for the delivery of public services in *(a)* education and *(b)* health in each year since 2005. [138508]

Hilary Armstrong: For 2005 and later years, no figures are currently available. Figures for 2004-05 are currently being compiled on expenditure by central Government Departments allocated to the third sector for the delivery of public services. These figures will be made available later this year.

Figures for 2003-04 indicate that in education, spending allocated to the third sector for the delivery of education services by central Government Departments amounted to £221 million and that allocated by local government amounted to £1,454 million.

Figures for 2003-04 indicate that spending on health-related activity in the third sector by central Government Departments amounted to £26 million. These figures do not include spending by the national health service. A separate estimate, produced externally for the Department of Health, suggested that in 2004-05 third sector organisations in England received around £1.1 billion from the NHS, including through trusts and PCTs, for the delivery of health care services.

Treaties: USA

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the recently announced UK-US Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty. [146080]

Hilary Armstrong: In accordance with the usual procedures, a copy of the Treaty will be published as a Command Paper and laid with an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum before both Houses of Parliament. Copies of the Command Paper will be laid in the Votes and Proceedings Office, the Vote Office and with the Clerk of the Parliaments at the House of Lords.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Free Nursery Places

10. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to increase the entitlement of three and four-year-olds to free nursery provision. [146028]

Beverley Hughes: We remain committed to extending the free early education entitlement for three and four-year-olds. It will increase from 12 and a half to 15

hours per week for 38 weeks of the year by 2010. This increase will further improve the life chances of all children and will help parents to balance work and family life more easily. We recognise that there will be transitional issues for some providers. This is why we are rolling out the extended entitlement gradually. 20 pathfinder local authorities began delivering the extended entitlement in April 2007.

Higher Education Admissions

12. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of trends in higher education admissions; and if he will make a statement. [146030]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that students from England applying for entry in 2007 are up by 6 per cent. compared to last year. They have also exceeded the large increase in 2005, meaning we are now seeing the largest ever numbers applying for higher education at this point in the application cycle. The small downturn we saw last year, which we always anticipated, has been strongly reversed this year. I am also pleased to see that there has been a slight increase in the proportion of applicants from the lower socio-economic groups. These highest-ever figures show that tuition fees are not putting students off applying to university as many predicted. The critics of the new system are being proved emphatically wrong.

Educational Achievement

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent representations he has received on the influence of ethnicity and social class on educational achievement; and if he will make a statement. [146031]

Jim Knight: While no specific representations have been made to the Department, we are aware of a number of recent publications, including the report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Sutton Trust's publication, which have highlighted social class influences on educational achievement.

To improve the chances of children from disadvantaged backgrounds we are investing over £1 billion to support personalised learning, trialling one-to-one tuition for pupils in maths and English and building academies in areas of real disadvantage.

Trade Union Learning

14. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the role of trade union learning representatives in promoting lifelong learning. [146032]

Phil Hope: More than 18,000 union learning representatives have been trained over the last few years. Evaluations have shown that they are very effective at promoting and encouraging training and development in the workplace, particularly among low skilled workers and those with literacy and numeracy difficulties. Union learning representatives have encouraged over 400,000 employees—150,000 employees in the last year alone—to get back into learning.

Looked-after Children

15. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures the Government plan to take to improve the outcomes for children in care. [146033]

Alan Johnson: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave earlier today.

PFI Programme

16. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has made an evaluation of the private finance initiative programme for school buildings. [146034]

Jim Knight: In 2005, we commissioned Partnerships UK to review operational schools private finance initiative contracts. Overall, this review was positive with, on balance, contracts operating successfully across most of their provision.

The review highlighted some difficulties and made recommendations, all of which were accepted and most of which had already been addressed. We continue to work with Partnerships UK and HM Treasury to ensure that private finance initiative contracts provide good service and value for money.

Building Schools for the Future

17. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [146035]

Jim Knight: Following procurement through the Official Journal of the European Union, in 2006 we placed a contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers to evaluate the impact of Building Schools for the Future investment on educational achievement and to learn early lessons to inform the development of the programme. The contract is for three years, and may be extended to support a longitudinal evaluation of the longer term impact. We aim to publish periodic reports from this evaluation.

Adult Education

18. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on adult education. [146036]

Phil Hope: We are spending more on adult learning than ever before, with over £3 billion in 2007-08 invested through the LSC.

Our priority is to help low skilled adults, with 1 million more adults now with essential employability skills and more than 1.6 million having gained Skills for Life qualifications. Lord Leitch's Review recommended an ambition that the UK becomes world class in skills by 2020. We accept that ambition and will publish our response shortly.

Overseas Trained Teachers

19. **Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of overseas trained teachers who will not have gained qualified teacher status in England before September. [146037]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected centrally.

Child Employment

20. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation on child employment and child performances. [146038]

Beverley Hughes: We have not carried out a recent assessment of legislation on the employment of children. The Government continue to focus at all times on how to deliver the outcomes we want to see for all our children, as expressed in our 'Every Child Matters' programme. Up-to-date Government guidance on child employment will be issued within the next year.

Adult Education: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of adult education in Liverpool. [146063]

Phil Hope: We have increased investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06. Spending on adult learning will continue to increase with over £3 billion in 2007-08, up 7 per cent. on 2005-06.

Our funding priorities have been clearly set out in the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) 'Annual Statement of Priorities—Raising our Game' for 2007-08 (www.lsc.gov.uk/Aboutus/LSCStrategy/AnnualStatementofPriorities/).

In Liverpool, as elsewhere in England, we are focusing public funding on helping those who need it most. This prioritises those without the basic and Level 2 skills for employment and further progression in learning while protecting provision for those with learning difficulties and disabilities as well as community learning. We will also develop new progression pathways that focus explicitly on the skills and learning needed for progression from Entry levels and Level 1 to a full Level 2 qualification. These local circumstances as well as the national priorities will be taken into account by the LSC when planning provision in consultation with local partners.

The Department does not hold information at local or regional levels. Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information about adult education in Liverpool and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

City Academies

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academy schools he expects to be opened in the next 12 months. [146065]

Jim Knight: There are currently 47 open academies. We anticipate that a further 36 academies will open in the next 12 months.

Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of the additional student numbers *(a)* applied for and *(b)* awarded were for (i) foundation degrees and (ii) honours degrees, broken down by institution in each of the last five years. [146129]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows how additional student numbers were allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for the period in question, analysed by type of degree studied for. The figures are in aggregate for the sector as a whole: allocations to each institution can only be provided at disproportionate cost. Figures showing applications for ASNs could also only be provided at disproportionate cost.

ASN FTE and headcount taken from final ASN datasets (includes mainstream and non-mainstream ASNs)

	2007-08 FTE07	*HEAD07*	*2006-07 FTE06*	*HEAD06*	*2005-06 FTE05*	*HEAD05*	*2004-05 FTE04*	*HEAD04*	*2003-04 FTE03*	*HEAD03*
FD[1]	13,239	18,255	10,763	14,502	9,763	12,817	8,469	11,730	3,598	4,795
UGX[2]	12,266	15,740	8,150	9,727	4,564	5,396	7,160	8,908	9,119	12,156
PGT[3]	1,377	2,236	1,547	3,000	308	374	440	653	1,040	1,429
Total	26,882	36,230	20,460	27,230	14,635	18,587	16,068	21,291	13,757	18,380
FD[1] proportion (percentage)	49	50	53	53	67	69	53	55	26	26
UGX[2] proportion (percentage) for July 2007	46	43	40	36	31	29	45	42	66	66

[1] FD Foundation degree
[2] UGX Other undergraduate (excluding foundation degree). This includes, but is not limited to, honours degrees.
[3] PGT Postgraduate taught
Notes:
Data shows FTEs and headcount student numbers awarded for (rather than in) the years in question through HEFCE's main additional student number exercises. They exclude numbers awarded separately for increases in intakes to undergraduate medicine and dentistry courses.

Education: Children In Care

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the educational attainment by children in care. [146108]

Beverley Hughes: Our White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" sets out how we will improve the education of children in care. We are increasing support for children and young people in care across all children's services. Specific education proposals include: a £500 educational allowance for children in care at risk of falling behind at school; putting the 'designated teacher' on a statutory footing to improve the expertise in schools; appointing 'virtual school heads' to oversee their education; improving attendance and reducing exclusions; reducing mobility of school placements, particularly in the crucial years before GCSEs; and a bursary of a minimum of £2,000 for all children in care who go on to university.

Higher Education: Anti-semitism

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of universities' compliance with equality legislation, with particular reference to anti-semitism. [146160]

Bill Rammell: The Government have demonstrated their clear commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity in higher education and more broadly in British society. Universities as independent, autonomous bodies are responsible themselves for complying with legislation and fulfilling their statutory duties. Under the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000) university governing bodies are also responsible for assessing the impact of their policies on student and staff of different racial groups.

Higher Education: Israel

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government have taken to make clear its opposition to an academic boycott of Israel. [146159]

Bill Rammell: We have made our position extremely clear on this issue in recent weeks—including my recent visit to Israel, when I spoke to senior Government Ministers, academics, students and the media. We fully support academic freedom and are firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics. While I appreciate the independence of the UCU, I am very disappointed that the union has decided to pass a motion which encourages its members to consider boycotting Israeli academics and education institutions. I profoundly believe this does nothing to promote the Middle East peace process, in fact the reverse.

Home Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to ensure that all individuals involved in providing home education are qualified teachers. [146052]

Jim Knight: There are no plans to ensure that individuals providing home education are qualified teachers, as many home educators are parents teaching their own children.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what funding was allocated to Sure Start, child care and early years in each of the last three financial years; [146317]

(2) what total funding for Sure Start, child care and early years will be in each of the next three financial years; [146318]

(3) what representations he has received on the implications of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review for Sure Start, child care and early years funding. [146319]

Beverley Hughes: The funding allocated to Sure Start, child care and early years in each of the last three financial years is shown in the table.

	£000
2004-05	1,065,707
2005-06	1,321,504
2006-07	1,539,567

Source:
DfES supply estimates

In addition, Government invest some £3 billion each year in the delivery of the free entitlement to nursery education for three and four-year-olds. Funding is provided to local authorities through the dedicated schools grant.

The Department received its CSR settlement for 2008-11 in the 2007 Budget. Announcements about specific allocations will be made over the coming months.

The Department has had many discussions with a wide range of stakeholders during preparations for and the run up to the Comprehensive Spending Review and will continue to do so as allocations are finalised.

Reading: Males

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to improve reading skills among teenage boys. [146493]

Jim Knight: Good reading skills are essential to improving chances of success for all young people. The

literacy standards of all pupils have improved markedly over the past decade, but within this there remains a roughly constant gender gap: boys tend to read less than girls, and to achieve lower rates of literacy as measured by English tests.

The Boys into Books initiative which the Government launched last month allows every state-funded secondary school with boys on roll to select 20 free books from a new list created by the School Library Association; the take-up of this offer is already approaching two-thirds of all eligible schools. The Reading Champions initiative provides a range of ideas and resources to encourage boys to read more by using the motivational power of reading role models. Both initiatives support our wider programme to promote literacy, including the planned National Year of Reading in 2008.

Schools: Capital Investment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been allocated to Warrington for capital expenditure in each year since 1997. [146261]

Jim Knight: Capital allocations to Warrington, in each year since it achieved unitary status, are set out in the following table:

	£ million
1998-99	3.7
1999-2000	4.7
2000-01	8.7
2001-02	9.0
2002-03	10.0
2003-04	8.8
2004-05	8.0
2005-06	9.8
2006-07	12.1
2007-08	8.2

The large allocation of £12.1 million in 2006-07 includes a safety valve basic need allocation of £3.7 million, for new pupil places.

Schools: Drugs

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to improve drugs education in schools. [146107]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)" outlines schools' responsibilities in this area and the issues to be covered in drug education across all of the four key stages. Ofsted tells us that the standard of drug education continues to improve.

However, the Government will continue their fight against drugs and intend to consult later this year on proposals for a new drug strategy to be introduced from 2008. Education will be considered as a fundamental part of this wider process.

Schools: Emergencies

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of procedures to evacuate pupils from school buildings in an emergency. [146217]

Jim Knight: We do not make such an assessment but schools must have contingency evacuation procedures in place for fire risks and we advise them to build on these for other emergencies such as floods. We also worked recently with the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the production of guidance on evacuation and shelter which includes information for schools, for whom we also maintain a website on emergency planning.

Schools: Intimidation

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to tackle homophobic bullying in schools. [146106]

Jim Knight: The Government believe there is no place for homophobic bullying in schools, and all our guidance on bullying makes this clear. Recognising that this can be a particularly difficult issue for many teachers to deal with, my Department has been working with Stonewall and Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) to prepare detailed guidance for schools on how to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying. This will be issued as part of our revised overarching guidance on bullying, "Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools", which we aim to launch online in September.

Sports: Children

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to increase levels of physical or sporting activity by children to help combat obesity. [146215]

Jim Knight: The National School Sport Strategy, jointly implemented by DCMS and DfES, is a key component of a multi-faceted, 'whole school' programme of addressing obesity. The 2005/06 school sport survey found that overall 80 per cent. of pupils participate in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week. This exceeded the target of 75 per cent. for 2006 and demonstrates a considerable increase from the estimated 25 per cent. in 2002. This target for 2008 rises to 85 per cent. By 2010 the ambition is to offer all children at least four hours of sport a week.

Furthermore, we are working with school sports partnerships to increase participation in physical activity by overweight and obese children.

Teachers: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many biological sciences graduates who had an A in biology A level began teacher training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by class of degree; [146127]

(2) how many chemistry graduates who had an A at chemistry A level began teacher training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by class of degree; [146128]

(3) how many physics graduates who had gained an A at physics A level began teacher training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by class of degree. [146132]

Jim Knight: A level grades for post graduate trainees entering initial teacher training (ITT) are not collected centrally. Data relating to trainees first degree is collected as part of the TDA's performance profiles data.

Teenage Pregnancy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, if he will examine the relationship between trends in teenage pregnancy rates and trends in educational attainment over the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [145763]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* The likelihood of teenage pregnancy is far higher among young women with poor educational attainment. 29 per cent. of girls leaving school at 16 without qualifications will have a birth under 18, and 12 per cent. an abortion under 18, compared with 1 per cent. and 4 per cent. respectively for girls leaving school at 17 or over. This association between teenage pregnancy and low attainment is evident even after accounting for the effects of deprivation. On average, among the 20 per cent. most deprived wards in England, those with poor levels of educational attainment (less than 40 per cent. of young women achieving 5 GCSE's A-C) have under 18 conception rates twice as high as similarly deprived wards with better levels of educational attainment (more than 60 per cent. of young women achieving 5 GCSE's A-C). Consequently, the teenage pregnancy strategy focuses on raising aspirations and attainment as well as on delaying first sex and better contraception use—giving young people the motivation as well as the means to prevent early pregnancy.

However, while there is a strong association between absolute teenage pregnancy and educational attainment rates, the association between changes in rates over time is less strong and more difficult to interpret. In large part, this is because teenage pregnancy and educational attainment rates are independently influenced by a wide range of factors. Accounting for how these factors impact on the relationship between changing teenage pregnancy and educational attainment rates is problematic as many are not captured by routinely collected statistics.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether bovine tuberculosis can be carried from farm to farm by people and animals walking across the land, with reference to the report of the Independent Scientific Group on Bovine Tuberculosis. [146310]

Mr. Bradshaw: Officials have assessed these risks and consider them to be low.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145974]

Barry Gardiner: The percentage of total sick absences taken by DEFRA staff for which stress was recorded as the reason for absence was as follows:

2005: 6.7 per cent.

2006: 5.3 per cent.

Information for 2004 is not available.

Floods: Kingston upon Hull

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the flood protection and water drainage infrastructure serving Kingston upon Hull and the surrounding area following the flooding that took place on 25 June. [146591]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement given by the Secretary of State on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 763, in which he explained that it is too early to make a full assessment of the recent flooding but that there had been no reported structural failings of flood defences.

Packaging: Recycling

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the packaging recovery note system is monitored. [145803]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency monitors compliance of businesses obligated under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations via the packaging recovery note (PRN) system. All obligated businesses are required to provide the appropriate agency with a certificate of compliance for the previous year by 31 January, which confirms that a producer has complied with their recovery and recycling obligations. Copies of all PRNs acquired for that particular year should accompany the certificate of compliance.

The Agency may also, by notice in writing, require any person with producer responsibility obligations to maintain and supply records to the Agency within a specified time.

The Agency is required to provide a report at the end of each year, in respect of the following calendar year, setting out its proposed monitoring plan including in relation to monitoring it is required to carry out (under Regulation 31). This will include an indication of the minimum number of businesses which it proposes to monitor in the course of that year.

The recently established National Packaging Waste Database has been developed to simplify data submission under the regulations, aid national planning and assist the enforcement agencies to identify abuses and non-compliance.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the packaging recovery note system is only applicable to companies that exceed an annual turnover of £2 million and whose packaging handling exceeds 50 tonnes per year. [145804]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations oblige businesses in the packaging chain which have an annual turnover of more than £2 million, and which handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year, to recover and recycle a specified amount of packaging waste. This amount is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. The packaging recovery note (PRN) system was established as the mechanism for businesses to provide evidence of compliance with these regulations.

Businesses with a lower annual turnover, or handling a lower tonnage of packaging, were excluded from the obligation in order to lessen the regulatory burden on small businesses.

VALPAK

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department monitors how VALPAK uses its licence fee income from the use of the Green Dot trademark; [145805]

(2) for what reasons the decision was taken to authorise VALPAK to charge a licence fee for the use of the Green Dot trademark; [145806]

(2) how his Department monitors the use of the Green Dot trademark to ensure that products bearing the trademark uphold the environmental obligations associated with the logo. [145807]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently, the Green Dot Licensing Company (a subsidiary of Valpak) is vested with the task of managing the Green Dot trademark in the UK. The Green Dot Licensing Company administers Green Dot licences in the UK on behalf of the licence-holder, Pro-Europe, and this decision was made by Pro-Europe rather than the UK Government.

Valpak, as part of the agreement with Pro-Europe, is required to manage the Green Dot registered trademark according to English trademark laws. This includes the policing of its use, granting "User Agreements", ensuring the integrity of the mark is protected and that it is not used in a misleading fashion or in derogation of its meaning in any way.

Valpak operates the Green Dot Licensing Company on a non-profit making basis and charges a flat licence fee. The licence fee reflects Valpak's operating costs and these will depend on the number of Green Dot users; the more users, the lower the fee. The costs are purely operating costs which will be charged back to those companies using the Green Dot logo.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Kashmir: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will support the appointment of a special rapporteur with an ongoing mandate to publish regular and public reports on the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Azad Kashmir; and if she will make a statement. [146109]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to call for an end to all external support for violence in Kashmir and an improvement in the human rights situation there. But it is not for us to intervene and prescribe a solution. That is for those parties directly involved to determine through dialogue. We hope that the dialogue process between India and Pakistan will build on progress achieved to date and, in due course, lead to the resolution of all outstanding differences between the two countries, including over Kashmir.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on the prosecution in civilian courts in India of members of the army and other security forces implicated in rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir; and if she will make a statement. [146114]

Dr. Howells: We have not received any such representations. Criminal prosecutions before Indian courts are a domestic matter for the Government of India and the Indian judiciary.

Saudi Arabia: Terrorism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1481-82W, on Saudi Arabia: Terrorism, if she will list the Saudi Arabian based charities on the UN Consolidated List with respect to Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden, the Taliban and other individuals, groups and entities associated with them; and if she will make a statement. [146116]

Dr. Howells: The Consolidated List, established and maintained by the Security Council's UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1267 sanctions Committee and last updated on 8 June, currently lists two Saudi Arabian-based charities associated with Al-Qaeda. These are:

The Benevolence International Foundation listed on 21 November 2002 (updated on 24 January 2004) and which is shown to have had branches in Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia; and

the Wafa Humanitarian Organisation listed on 6 October 2001 and shown to have a presence in Saudi Arabia.

The list also designates various international branches of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation. The original Foundation, based previously in Riyadh, was dissolved by the Saudi Arabian government in June 2004 and its assets taken over by the Saudi National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad. The Saudi Arabian government has said that the National Commission, described as a non-governmental body, has now assumed responsibility in the Kingdom for all private overseas aid including the distribution of Saudi private charitable donations.

The United Kingdom is obliged to uphold UNSCR 1267 listings and to impose a corresponding assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. These financial sanctions are administered by the Bank of England, acting as agents for HM Treasury.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to improve standards of nutrition and hydration of residents in care homes. [146676]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1306-07W.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into account in deciding not to proceed with the review of the national minimum standards for care homes. [146677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has decided to refocus the work that has already been carried out on the review of the national minimum standards, and to build on this, as part of the wider reform of health and adult social care regulation, to ensure there is an effective and integrated regulatory system.

The decision to integrate the review into the regulatory reform work was based on concerns received from stakeholders about a two-stage approach to changes in the standards. It is also important to ensure that any changes in respect of adult social care will align with the new regulatory regime.

Doctors: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been arising from legal action in relation to the medical training application service, broken down by main budget heading. [145997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no legal challenges against the medical training application service. Remedy UK Limited brought an unsuccessful legal challenge against the Department, the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board, the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans of the United Kingdom, the British Medical Association and the National Association of Clinical Tutors in relation to the changes made to specialty training recruitment as a result of the Douglas Review. The costs to the Department of this challenge are currently being assessed.

Elderly: Social Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent the rate of ageing of a population is taken into account when calculating adult social care budgets; and what proportion of *(a)* over 65 and *(b)* over 85 years olds must be present in a population for a local authority to receive additional funding. [146014]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Local authority funding for social services is derived from a variety of sources both from within central Government and also determined locally (via council tax, fees and charges).

It is for individual local authorities to manage and direct their own resources in accordance with local priorities and the needs of the communities to which they are accountable.

Central funding for adult social care is via formula grant (via Department for Communities and Local Government) which is not hypothecated and specific grants from the Department.

Formula grant is allocated using relative needs formulae (RNF) which include a factor for the number of older people. The RNF are mathematical formulae that include information on population, social structure and other characteristics of each authority. For social care, there are separate formulae for older people (aged 65 and over) and younger adults (aged 18 to 65). The older people's formula also includes an age top-up for those aged 90 and over (as a proportion of the older people population), which takes into account the higher needs of those of very advanced age This age top-up is calculated as part of the econometric analysis carried out in an academic research project in 2005. There is, however, no set proportion of older people which leads to 'additional funding'.

The Government (in consultation with local government) have developed separate formulae to cover the major service areas, because there are different factors influencing each service area. The funding blocks for service areas are; children's services, adults' personal services, police, fire, highway maintenance and environmental, protective and cultural services. These formulae apply to all local authorities providing particular services.

The formula for each specific service area is built on a basic amount per client, plus additional top ups to reflect local circumstances. The top ups take account of a number of local factors that affect service costs, but the biggest factors are deprivation and area costs.

Relative needs are designed to reflect the relative needs of individual authorities in providing services. They are not intended to measure the actual amount needed by any authority to provide local services but simply to recognise the various factors which affect local authorities' costs locally.

The arrangements for allocating specific grants vary, some schemes use formulae grant; others allocate funds on the basis of appraisal of bids.

Health Visitors

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she will take in response to the publication of Facing the Future, a review of the role of health visitors. [146282]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are considering the report's recommendations and intend to publish a response in the autumn.

Midwives: Mid-Essex Hospital Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by the Mid-Essex hospital trust in each of the last 10 years. [145965]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified midwives in the Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust as at 30 September for each specified year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Mid-Essex hospital services NHS trust	134	127	104	95	109	127	107	105	110	122

Note:
More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent., of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Midwives: Training

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places there were in each English region in academic year 2006-07. [146010]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 June 2007]:* This information is shown in the table.

Midwifery training commission figures by region 2006-07

Strategic health authorities	*Degree*	*Diploma*	*18 month diploma*
East of England	7	166	42
East Midlands	31	94	13
London	0	214	174
North East	60	0	24
North West	169	15	65
South Central	59	67	23
South East Coast	89	53	47
South West	99	24	15
West Midlands	171	0	57
Yorkshire and the Humber	103	15	94
Total	788	648	554

Source:
NMET Q4 training commission Figures

Muscular Dystrophy: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, what recent assessment has been made of progress of research into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy administered by LGC Ltd; and if she will make a statement; [146057]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of exon skipping as a potential therapy for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; [146054]

(3) what plans her Department has to trial the drug Losartan for the treatment of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. [146053]

Caroline Flint: The £1.6 million, four-year programme (2005-08) of research towards a phase 1 clinical trial for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) that the Department has been supporting is administered through the company LGC Ltd. Progress is assessed through quarterly reports, and site visits by LGC Ltd. The programme started in January 2005.

My noble Friend the Minister of State for Health (Lord Hunt) met with representatives from the DMD research team on 15 March. The MDEX Consortium research and clinical trial is progressing well, with the first patient due to receive the first dose of the experimental molecule within the next few months. According to the group's latest report of April 2007, ethical approval for the phase 1 clinical trial is in place and regulatory approvals are expected to be given soon. The clinical trial is predicted to take place through to the end of 2008.

Research in the United States has demonstrated that Losartan may improve muscle regeneration in mice with DMD. We are not aware of any human clinical trials organised in the United Kingdom.

NHS Treatment Centres: Newcastle

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been paid to Care UK for the NHS walk-in centre at Jury's Inn, Newcastle; what the reasons were for the delay in opening the centre; what costs were incurred during the delay; when the days of opening were extended to include Sundays; and what consideration is being given to an extension of opening hours after 7 p.m; [146223]

(2) which trust or organisation in the NHS *(a)* determined the cost and service standards of the NHS walk-in centre at Jury's Inn, Newcastle and *(b)* is responsible for monitoring the contract; and how long the contract with Care UK for the NHS walk-in centre has to run. [146226]

Andy Burnham: The Newcastle Central NHS walk-in centre at Jury's Inn is one of seven centres commissioned by the Department to provide health services which address the needs of the working population. Care UK is the provider under a contract that runs until 30 April 2011. The amount payable under this contract is commercially confidential. The centre opened on 17 May 2006, two weeks later than scheduled due to an issue with the electrical power

source. No costs were incurred during this period. The centre is open 7 am to 7 pm, Monday to Friday and although the Department, the provider and the primary care trust are discussing options for extending opening hours, no decision has been taken.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement that the NHS IT programme is the largest civilian IT programme in the world, which non-civilian IT programmes are larger; and which civilian IT programme is nearest in size to the NHS IT programme. [145635]

Caroline Flint: Although formal research has not been conducted, we are not aware of any publicised IT programme in the world that services 1.3 million staff with what is said by suppliers to be the largest virtual private network and largest single email service that underpins the complex technology to support electronic booking, electronic prescriptions, digital imaging and an electronic care record for 50 million patients. It is not known what the second largest civilian programme would be and it would be a disproportionate cost to the taxpayer to find out. Non-civilian IT programmes tend not to publicise their details.

NHS: Management Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on management consultancy contracts by the NHS in 2006-07. [146291]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Strokes: Ethnic Groups

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to help raise awareness of the increased risk factors for stroke in people from *(a)* African Caribbean and *(b)* South Asian communities. [146077]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has provided Section 64 grants to fund the following projects: The Afiya Trust's Stroke Awareness for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities project will target black and minority ethnic communities and run stroke awareness sessions within community settings.

The Stroke Association's Blood Pressure Awareness: African Caribbean Communities project will promote a blood pressure awareness campaign within African Caribbean communities in England.

The Stroke Association's Stroke Prevention: South Asian Communities project raised awareness of stroke prevention through the production of materials and the dissemination and distribution of these materials.

The risk factors which increase an individual's chances of suffering a stroke include smoking, drinking alcohol, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Strokes are also more likely in those who suffer from hypertension and diabetes. Through the public health White Paper "Choosing Health" the Department has set out a programme of action to help improve the health of the public including action on smoking and diet. This builds on existing work such as campaigns on smoking and diet, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the management of hypertension, points for prevention activities in the general practitioners contract and support for the Blood Pressure Association blood pressure awareness campaigns.

The Coronary Heart Disease and Diabetes National Service Frameworks have also driven forward improvements in primary and secondary prevention of risk factors associated with circulatory disease in general. This includes better control of blood pressure and blood glucose, cholesterol management and the use of aspirin.

The Department is also developing a new national stroke strategy for England which aims to modernise services, not just for those who have had a stroke, but also those at risk of doing so.

Strokes: Research

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to encourage the participation of more *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* patients in stroke research studies. [146076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's National Institute for Health Research is investing £20 million over five years in the United Kingdom Stroke Research Network set up in 2005. The Network is currently supporting 40 clinical trials and other well-designed studies conducted by public and private sector funders.

The Stroke Research Network works closely with patients, their carers and the public to ensure involvement at all levels of its activity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in the criminal justice system area most closely corresponding to Chelmsford in each year since the scheme commenced. [145964]

Mr. Coaker: The available information (up to 31 December 2005, latest available) is given in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Essex CJS area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by year, April 1999 to December 2005

Essex CJS area	*Number*
April 1999-May 2000	0
June-December 2000	0
2001	0
2002	2
2003	16
2004	59
2005	72
Total issued	149

[1] Between 1 April 1999-31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Police: Road Traffic

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources have been allocated to police forces for traffic policing to meet the Government's road casualty reduction targets. [146124]

Mr. McNulty: Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales.

Funding for traffic policing is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the Government's Safety Camera initiative on the numbers of police officers employed on speed enforcement duties in those areas where it has been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [146125]

Mr. Coaker: We would expect the effective use of automatic, unattended speed cameras to improve law enforcement by deterring more drivers from exceeding the legal speed limit and detecting more who do. It will at the same time free up police resources for other duties. These would include roads policing duties, such as active speed limit enforcement by officers on the ground. How resources are deployed is however an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Art Works

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the Works of Art Committee acquisition budget is for 2007-08. [145049]

Nick Harvey: The total income of the acquisition budget for 2007-08 is £188,124.68. This is made up of the vote for the financial year of £72,500, plus a carry-over from the previous financial year of £115,624.68. The carry-over arose from underspend in 2003-04 and 2004-05, when few works of art became available which fitted the Committee's acquisition aims. A large proportion of it has already been committed to projects begun in the last financial year, including purchases made at the auction of the collection of the late Lord Stratford and portrait commissions.

Lifts

Mr. Laws: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what plans are being made to repair the lifts in 1 Parliament Street; and how often all of these lifts have been working simultaneously over the last two years. [144995]

Nick Harvey: The refurbishment of the suite of three lifts in 1 Parliament Street is being undertaken as a two year programme to ensure that at least one of the lifts is always available. In the first year (2006) one of the lifts was repaired and provisional wiring for the other two took place. During this summer recess the other two lift cars and doors will be renewed and at the end of the recess all three lifts will be in full service.

Other than during the summer recess, all three lifts have been in normal operation except between February and April. During that period, one lift at a time was taken out of operation to improve the controls which enable them to work together. This task was due to be done in the summer recess 2007 but was brought forward in view of complaints from Members. Since April there have been other breakdowns which on one occasion put two of three lifts out of action for one Tuesday afternoon and overnight before they were repaired.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made in meeting the millennium goals. [145769]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs) is reported on officially by the UN and varies across goals and targets and across regions.

The world is on track to meet the poverty reduction and hunger goal. The most recent official data at global level show that between 1990 and 2002, the percentage of people living on less than $1 a day in the developing world dropped from 28 to 19 per cent. However, progress across regions varies. The proportion of people in Asia living on less than $1 a day dropped by nearly a quarter of a billion over that period. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the goal is seriously off track and, although the poverty rate itself did not increase, the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by 140 million.

Progress towards the other seven millennium development goals (MDGs) goals also varies. For example, reducing child mortality is on track in Latin America, South East Asia and North Africa, and slightly off track in most other regions. There is less progress towards goal 6 (combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases): this goal is seriously off track for at least one of its composing targets in most regions (including Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Oceania and the Commonwealth of Independent States both in Europe and Asia). Progress towards environmental sustainability is mixed, with most regions off track for some targets and on track for others.

On current rates of progress, Sub-Saharan Africa will not meet any of the goals by 2015. The UK has placed Africa at the forefront of our campaign for more and better aid. Out of the 25 key countries on which DFID focuses its work, 16 are in Africa. The 2006 White Paper sets out DFID's future work on

governance, basic services, climate change, the international system, and fragile states, which will all help make further progress towards meeting the MDGs.

The 2006 UN Millennium Development Goals Report, which can be found on http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/default.aspx, gives a comprehensive account of progress to date on each of the goals, and how great an effort remains necessary if they are to be met. The report is about to be updated by the UN this summer.

DFID's 2007 annual report "Development on the Record", which was recently published includes an annex on progress towards all goals including UK progress towards MDG 8. A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

International Assistance: Group of Eight

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1251W, on international assistance: Group of Eight, if he will break down the figures on *(a)* total overseas development assistance and *(b)* debt relief as a proportion of gross national income by G8 member country. [146207]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The following table gives a breakdown of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) and debt relief, as a proportion of total Gross National Income (GNI) in 2006 for each of the G7 countries using current prices (as opposed to 2004 prices in the previous answer). Russia is not a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, therefore any aid from Russia is not included in the official DAC statistics on ODA.

G7 countries: net ODA in 2006 (preliminary data)

	ODA US$ million current	*ODA/GNI percentage*	*Debt relief US$ million current*	*Debt relief/GNI percentage*
Canada	3,713	0.30	245	0.020
France	10,448	0.47	3,543	0.159
Germany	10,351	0.36	2,722	0.095
Italy	3,672	0.20	1,604	0.087
Japan	11,608	0.25	3,128	0.067
United Kingdom	12,607	0.52	3,476	0.143
United States	22,739	0.17	1,575	0.012
G7 countries	75,138	0.30	16,293	0.065

Source:
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2007

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for the provision of aid to the people of Gaza. [145768]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 19 June my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, Central (Hilary Benn), the former Secretary of State for International Development, announced a contribution of £1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for immediate humanitarian needs in Gaza and the West Bank. ICRC has delivered medical supplies, repatriated bodies, evacuated medical cases and helped the Palestinian Red Crescent to deliver blood supplies in Gaza. It has also helped the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to deliver food aid.

UNRWA provides food aid to 850,000 Palestinian refugees in Gaza, along with other essential services. With ICRC, UNRWA is assisting the 250 people trapped at the Erez crossing. DFID has provided £15.6 million through UNRWA this year for its operations in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM), the European Union is providing fuel to ensure the continued operation of electricity, water and sanitation services in Gaza, supporting front line health services and providing allowances for Government workers, pensioners and other needy Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. DFID has provided £15 million through the TIM so far.

The European Community (EC) is providing €9.8 million through the World Health Organisation, €6 million for UNRWA's food programme, and €9 million through the World Food Programme for the West Bank and Gaza. This is in addition to the European Community's contribution to UNRWA's core fund of €66 million this year. The UK contributes about 17 per cent. of EC assistance.

The key humanitarian issue in Gaza at this time is access. 104 containers of UNRWA supplies await transit to Gaza through the Kami crossing. Without regular and reliable access for aid supplies and privately traded goods it will not be possible for Gaza's 1.3 million people to meet their basic needs.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance has been provided to support Palestine in each year since 1995. [145770]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Figures for DFID support to the Palestinian people since 1995 are as follows:

	£
2006-07	30,211,000
2005-06	30,043,000
2004-05	34,794,000
2003-04	40,487,000
2002-03	33,873,600
2001-02	38,737,000
2000-01	26,764,000
1999-2000	20,727,000
1998-99	8,516,000
1997-98	16,133,000
1996-97	14,288,000
1995-96	10,147,000

These figures include contributions through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which supports Palestinian refugees living in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

JUSTICE

Chelmsford Prison

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners are resident in Chelmsford prison. [145966]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At unlock on 25 June, the prisoner population at Chelmsford prison was 687.

Data Protection: Enforcement

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the maximum penalty is that the Information Commissioner can impose on a direct mailing company that is in breach of section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998; and if she will make a statement; [146133]

(2) how much was spent by the Information Commissioner on prosecuting direct mailers in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [146134]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner does not have the power to impose a penalty on a direct mailing company for breach of section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 11 of the Act gives a right for an individual to give notice in writing for an organisation to cease processing their personal data for the purpose of marketing. If the organisation concerned fails to comply, the individual can seek enforcement at court. An individual can ask the Commissioner's Office to make an assessment of processing, but this does not result in punitive action. Failure to comply with an enforcement order is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.

Departments: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what ministerial visits have been made to prisons in Wales; and what the date of each such visit was. [146273]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table details the ministerial visits to prisons in Wales since 1 May 1997, according to available records. There are plans to visit Cardiff and Parc prisons in July 2007.

Ministerial visits to prisons in Wales since 1 May 1997

Minister	*Prison visited*	*Date*
Ron Davies	Cardiff	6 August 1997
George Howarth	Usk/Prescoed	29 January 1998
Alun Michael	Cardiff	31 January 1998
Joyce Quinn	Cardiff	3 April 1998
Joyce Quinn	Parc[1]	3 April 1998
Lord Williams of Mostyn	Cardiff	26 August 1998
Lord Williams of Mostyn	Parc[1]	14 September 1998
George Howarth	Cardiff	26 January 1999
Lord Williams of Mostyn	Cardiff	4 June 1999
Paul Boateng	Parc[1]	23 September 1999
Lord Rooker of Perry Vale	Cardiff	17 September 2001
Beverly Hughes	Parc[1]	22 June 2001
Paul Goggins	Cardiff	17 June 2004
Paul Goggins	Usk/Prescoed	2 March 2005
Baroness Scotland	Cardiff	12 January 2006

[1] Contracted prison.

Lawyers: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many law firms in Wales have *(a)* signed and *(b)* not signed new contracts with the Legal Services Commission. [146269]

Vera Baird: The Unified Contract for civil work was issued to 200 solicitors' offices in Wales. 196 contracts have been returned signed. 29 contracts were issued to not-for-profit organisations in Wales and all have been returned signed.

Peterborough Prison: Reoffenders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what procedures have been put in place to undertake risk assessments in respect of those prisoners released early from HMP Peterborough and the likelihood of their reoffending; and if she will make a statement. [146322]

Mr. Hanson: The suitability of each prisoner for release under End of Custody Licence (ECL) will be assessed according to set criteria rather than individual risk assessment. All prisoners who are potentially eligible will be screened against these criteria. We will not release:

Registered sex offenders, whether or not they are currently serving a sentence for a sexual offence;

Prisoners serving sentences for serious violence;

Prisoners who have previously escaped from custody;

Prisoners who have previously breached temporary release conditions during the current sentence, have offended during a period under temporary release at any time, or prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return from temporary release;

Prisoners with no accommodation arranged;

Foreign national prisoners who will be subject to deportation at the end of their sentence;

Prisoners who are subject to extradition proceedings;

Sentenced prisoners who have been remanded into custody on further charges or who are awaiting sentence;

Prisoners who, within the period of their current sentence, had been recalled either from HDC or from normal licence;

Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of the normal (end of sentence) supervision licence that could not be arranged during the period of THL;

Prisoners who are under 18 years of age.

Prison Population

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the statement of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1241, on prison population, how many prisoners will be released from prisons in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* England where the prisoner's last known address was in Wales. [146304]

Mr. Hanson: End of custody licence prisoner numbers are not broken down by area or by last known address.

Prisoners Release

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what measures will be put in place to monitor those prisoners who will be released early from prison. [146056]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners who are subject to supervision on release (all prisoners serving 12 months or more and prisoners under 22 years of age) will be required to meet their probation officer after release on the end of custody licence (ECL) and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision programme.

All prisoners released under the end of custody licence will be liable to recall if they are reported to have broken the terms of licence.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many foreign national prisoners were imprisoned at the latest available date, broken down by *(a)* European Union nationals, *(b)* non-European Union nationals and *(c)* other nationals; and what percentage of all prisoners are foreign nationals. [146123]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requested information is contained in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison by nationality: England and Wales: 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*	*Percentage*
Population in prison by nationality		
All nationalities	80,261	100
UK nationals	68,124	85
Foreign nationals	11,231	14
Not recorded	905	1

Population in prison by nationality: England and Wales: 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*	*Percentage*
Foreign national population in prison		
All foreign nationals	11,231	100
European Union nationals	2,441	22
Non-European Union nationals	8,790	78

Sources:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Foreign national population in prison by nationality England and Wales 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Total Africa	3,254
Angola	84
Burundi	less than 50
Dahomey (Benin)	less than 50
Botswana	less than 50
Ivory Coast	less than 50
Central African Republic	less than 50
Congo	111
Cameroon, United Republic	less than 50
Cape Verde	less than 50
Algeria	193
Egypt	less than 50
Ethiopia	less than 50
Ghana	207
Gambia	less than 50
Guinea	less than 50
Equatorial Guinea	less than 50
Guinea/Bissau	less than 50
Kenya	64
Liberia	less than 50
Libya	less than 50
Morocco	50
Mali	less than 50
Mauritania	less than 50
Mauritius	less than 50
Malawi	less than 50
Mozambique	less than 50
Namibia	less than 50
Niger	less than 50
Nigeria	1,061
Rwanda	less than 50
Seychelles	less than 50
Sudan	less than 50
Sierre Leone	97
Senegal	less than 50
Somalia	356
Swaziland	less than 50
Chad	less than 50
Togo	less than 50
Tunisia	less than 50
Tanzania	less than 50
Uganda	95
Western Sahara	less than 50
South Africa	210
Zambia	less than 50
Congo, Democratic Republic	less than 50
Zimbabwe	194

Foreign national population in prison by nationality England and Wales 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Total Asia	1,872
Bangladesh	167
Burma	less than 50
China	312
Hong Kong	less than 50
Indonesia	less than 50
India	315
Japan	less than 50
Korea Republic of (Sth)	less than 50
Sri Lanka	169
Mongolia	less than 50
Malaysia	less than 50
Philippines	less than 50
Pakistan	419
Singapore	less than 50
Thailand	less than 50
East Timor (Portuguese)	less than 50
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	less than 50
Vietnam	406
Total Central and South America	379
Argentina	less than 50
Bolivia	less than 50
Brazil	92
Belize	less than 50
Chile	less than 50
Columbia	124
Costa Rica	less than 50
Ecuador	less than 50
French Guyana	less than 50
Guatemala	less than 50
Guyana	less than 50
Honduras	less than 50
Mexico	less than 50
Panama	less than 50
Peru	less than 50
Paraguay	less than 50
Surinam	less than 50
El Salvador	less than 50
Venezuela	less than 50
Total Europe	3,135
EU countries	2,441
Austria	less than 50
Belgium	less than 50
Bulgaria	less than 50
Cyprus	50
Czech Republic	less than 50
Denmark	less than 50
Estonia	less than 50
Finland	less than 50
France	170
Germany	129
Greece	less than 50
Hungary	less than 50
Irish Republic	653
Italy	106
Latvia	less than 50
Lithuania	191
Malta	less than 50

Foreign national population in prison by nationality England and Wales 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Netherlands	132
Poland	312
Portugal	183
Romania	150
Slovakia	less than 50
Slovenia	less than 50
Spain	67
Sweden	less than 50
Non EU European countries	694
Albania	148
Armenia	less than 50
Azerbijan	less than 50
Bosnia-Hercegovina	less than 50
Croatia	less than 50
Switzerland	less than 50
Georgia	less than 50
Gibraltar	less than 50
Kazakhstan	less than 50
Kyrgystan	less than 50
Moldova	less than 50
Macedonia	less than 50
Serbia and Montenegro	94
Norway	less than 50
San Marino	less than 50
Russia	113
Turkey	225
Uzbekistan	less than 50
Total Middle East	669
United Arab Emirates	less than 50
Afghanistan	95
Bahrain	less than 50
Iran	194
Israel	less than 50
Iraq	264
Jordan	less than 50
Kuwait	less than 50
Lebanon	less than 50
Oman	less than 50
Qatar	less than 50
Saudi Arabia	less than 50
Syrian Arab Republic	less than 50
Yemen, Republic of	less than 50
Total North America	130
Canada	less than 50
United States of America	103
Total Oceania	51
Australia	less than 50
Fiji	less than 50
French Southern Territories	less than 50
Kiribati	less than 50
New Zealand	less than 50
Papua New Guinea	less than 50
Total Other	8
West Indies	1,733

Foreign national population in prison by nationality England and Wales 30 April 2007

Nationality	*Total*
Aruba	less than 50
Anguilla	less than 50
Netherlands Antilles	less than 50
Barbados	less than 50
Bermuda	less than 50
Bahamas	less than 50
Cuba	less than 50
Dominica	less than 50
Dominican Republic	less than 50
Grenada	less than 50
Haiti	less than 50
Jamaica	1,464
St Lucia	less than 50
Montserrat	less than 50
St Christopher & Nevis	less than 50
Trinidad and Tobago	91
St Vincent & The Grenadines	less than 50

Note:
For reasons of confidentiality and data integrity numbers under 50 are not shown
Sources:
These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what consultations were undertaken on changes to the use of restraint in secure training centres before the laying of the Secure Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007 (S.I., 2007, No. 1709), dated 13 June 2007, before Parliament; and what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* impact assessment she plans to undertake of the implementation of the changes. [146005]

Bridget Prentice: We consulted the Youth Justice Board and Directors of secure training centres about the proposed change. Wider consultation was not necessary or appropriate, as there is no change of the policy on the use of physical restraint. That policy is set out in section 10 of the Youth Justice Board's code of practice "Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate".

Monitors appointed by the Youth Justice Board monitor the use of physical restraint in secure training centres and are required to submit to the Board a report of any incident in which physical restraint is used. The Board also collects statistical data on the use of physical restraint across the under-18 secure estate. In April 2007, it introduced a new system of data collection, which will provide more detailed information and allow more accurate comparisons to be made about use of restraint in the three sectors of the estate (young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes).

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many reviews the Youth Justice Board has undertaken of the use of restraint in secure training centres in the last five years. [146006]

Bridget Prentice: The Youth Justice Board has commissioned four reviews relating exclusively to methods of restraint used in secure training centres.

These were:

a review by David Waplington of behaviour management in secure training centres (October 2004);

a review by medical and other experts of the safety of "Physical Control in Care" (PCC) the system of restraint approved for use in secure training centres (May 2005);

an independent review of PCC and behaviour management in secure training centres. Conducted by Anthony Bleetman and Peter Boatman (July 2005);

Safe and Sound, a review of the development of physical control techniques used in secure training centres. Conducted by a forum of Secure Training Centre Directors (August 2006).

In addition, the Youth Justice Board commissioned the National Children's Bureau to report on use of physical intervention within the juvenile secure estate generally (2003).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Firearms: Registration

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many firearms certificates were *(a)* held, *(b)* granted and (c) extinguished in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [145252]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has provided the information in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) Certificates held	76680	70983	65129
(b) Certificates granted	[1]n/a	13818	[2]27732
(c) Certificates extinguished	1386	5083	4657

[1] Figures are not available for the number of certificates granted in 2004-05.
[2] The increase in certificates granted in 2006-07 reflects a clearance of a backlog of applications.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145299]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not have any credit or fuel cards. The Office has one procurement card which was issued in 2006-07; nothing was spent on that card in that year.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145281]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office undertook one public consultation entitled "Scottish Parliament Elections May 2007: Ballot Paper Design", this was an online consultation and the associated costs were £17,000.

Identification of Criminals

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has made to the First Minister of Scotland on the retention of DNA samples of suspected criminals; and if he will make a statement. [146238]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made no representations to the First Minister with regard to this matter.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Criminal Justice Pilots

24. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the early findings are of the Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary pilots on speeding up prosecutions in north Northamptonshire. [146042]

The Solicitor-General: The Criminal Justice: Simple, Speedy, Summary Process was introduced in three magistrates courts in North Northamptonshire on 4 June 2007. These were Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. The implementation was effected smoothly, but it is too soon to be able to identify any findings. The process was successfully piloted in four other sites. I have visited courts in Coventry and London recently where there is real enthusiasm about the benefits of CJSSS. It is being rolled out across the country this year.

Law Officers

25. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on the future role of the Law Officers. [146043]

26. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on the future role of the Law Officers. [146044]

The Solicitor-General: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) today.

Human Trafficking

27. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to improve prosecution rates in cases of alleged human trafficking. [146045]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS is working with other Departments to implement the UK action plan on trafficking which provides for a range of actions on Prevention, Investigation, Enforcement and Prosecution. The CPS has taken the following steps:

A Network of Human Trafficking Champions appointed in each CPS Area;

A Senior prosecutor seconded to the UKHTC (Government's multi-agency task force to tackle organised immigration crime) to:

provide early tactical legal advice assist in obtaining evidence from other jurisdictions;

issued national guidance to prosecutors on how to handle trafficking prosecutions; and ensured that the victim's interests are at the heart of any prosecution as part of the Prosecutor's Pledge.

Media Reporting: Criminal Cases

28. **Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Solicitor-General what his policy is on enforcement of the contempt laws on media reporting of criminal cases. [146046]

The Solicitor-General: I refer to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stourbridge (Lynda Waltho) on 28 June 2007, but I should stress that the Law Officers will not hesitate to enforce the Contempt of Court Act 1981 where coverage of active proceedings creates a substantial risk that the course of justice in those proceedings could be, or has already been, seriously prejudiced. This extends to interference with pending criminal investigations, if there has already been an arrest.

Administration of Justice

Mr. Bone: To ask the Solicitor-General what guidance his Department has issued to the Crown Prosecution Service on procedures for the reinstatement of trials which have been aborted due to technical error. [146229]

The Solicitor-General: No specific guidance has been issued to crown prosecutors on procedures for the reinstatement of trials, which have been aborted due to technical errors. Where cases are stopped because of a technical error, steps may be taken to correct the error so that the case may proceed in the usual way.

More general guidance has been issued, which states that a decision to re-institute proceedings should only be taken when 'special circumstances' exist that demand the reinstitution of proceedings in order to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system. If it is decided to re-institute proceedings, action is taken to bring the defendant back before the court by way of a charge or summons. This process is independent of the previous proceedings.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service has instigated for breaches of criminal anti-social behaviour orders since 2004. [146220]

The Solicitor-General: Crown Prosecution Service records include the number of prosecutions for breach of an antisocial behaviour order under section 1(10) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but do not differentiate between prosecutions relating to criminal and non-criminal orders.

Complete records are held for the last two financial years, showing that the number of prosecutions under this legislation which reached a first hearing in

magistrates courts, or were entered on indictments in the crown court, was as follows:

	Magistrates courts	Crown court
2005-06	13,436	2,110
2006-07	13,475	2,406

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145934]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officer's Department does not have a concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland administration.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General how much was raised from the sale of the Law Officers' Departments departmental property in each of the last five years. [139309]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments' only sales of departmental property in the period were both in 2005-06: the Treasury Solicitor's Department sold Queen Anne's Chambers in Central London for £33 million; and the Crown Prosecution Service sold Winchway House in Haverfordwest for £450,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General how much was received by the Law Officers' Departments from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139328]

The Solicitor-General: Of the Law Officers' Departments, only the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have owned properties during the period.

Their income from letting was as follows:

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
TSol	792,821	514,994	470,128	462,307	[1]343,357
CPS	4,469,496	4,334,181	2,482,060	3,099,057	3,412,320
Totals	5,262,317	4,849,175	2,952,188	3,561,364	3,755,677

[1] Forecast

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General what properties the Law Officers' Departments has *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139348]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department owned Queen Anne's Chambers in London SW1 for the financial years spanning 2002 to 2006. It then sold it, as referred to in my reply to question 13909. They have rented 1 Kemble Street in London WC2 since 2005-06, to date. Riverside Chambers, Taunton, Somerset was leased by the Department in 1991 and is now let to various public sector tenants.

None of the other Law Officers' Departments owns any properties. The Serious Fraud Office has rented Elm House, London WC1 throughout the period. The SFO rented fourth floor of Verulam Gardens, London WC1 from 2003-04 to 2006-07, and the fifth floor of the same building from 2004-05 to 2006-07. It rented the first and fifth floors of 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 from 2005-06 to date.

The Attorney-General's Office AGO rented 8-9 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 throughout the period, and began renting 20 Victoria Street, London SW1 towards the end of the financial year 2006-07, prior to their move its move there in May 2007.

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has rented numbers 26 and 28 Old Queen Street, London SW1 throughout this period.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, since its inception in April 2005, has occupied space under a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation agreed with HM Revenue and Customs in Ralli Quays, Salford, Greater Manchester and new Kings Beam House, London SE1.

The CPS breakdown is in the following table and a comprehensive list of the buildings has been placed in the Library.

	Owned	Rented
2002-03	4	88
2003-04	4	91
2004-05	4	92
2005-06	4	89
2006-07	3	86

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Law Officers' Departments' property portfolio. [139367]

The Solicitor-General: The net book value recorded in HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor's departmental resource accounts for 2005-06 for freehold and leasehold land and property is nil. (This includes the Attorney General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.)

Neither the Serious Fraud Office nor the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office has made any estimate (as noted in my earlier reply to the hon. Member [139328], neither owns any properties).

The most recent estimate (financial year 2006-07) that has been made for the three freehold sites in the Crown Prosecution Service's property portfolio is £6,110,823 after accumulated depreciation calculation.

Terry Lloyd

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on Terry Lloyd, by what date he expects the Crown Prosecution Service to make a decision on the prosecution of those responsible. [145946]

The Solicitor-General: The file submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has been reviewed and as a result the CPS has requested further evidence

from the United States. This has been done through a formal letter submitted under the United Kingdom—United States mutual legal assistance treaty and a response is awaited to the request.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Nuclear Power Stations: Sussex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department plans to carry out a consultation in Sussex on the feasibility of locating new nuclear power stations in the county. [142551]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* Any new nuclear power stations would be built by the private sector but no decisions would be taken on any potential location for a new nuclear power station pending the carrying out of a full strategic siting assessment (SSA). DTI is currently consulting on a proposed SSA process, which would be implemented if the Government confirm their preliminary view that it is in the public interest to allow energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations. The proposed SSA process would include a public consultation on draft SSA criteria, and a further public consultation on a draft list of locations judged to have met this criteria.

In advance of such an SSA being carried out, and subject to the outcome of the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power, DTI has no plans to consult on the feasibility of locating new nuclear power stations in any particular geographical area. However, any proposed locations for new nuclear power stations emerging from an SSA would be the subject of local consultation through the planning process.

TRANSPORT
Aviation

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the objectives are for the second stage of the EU/US aviation negotiations; and what plans he has in the eventuality of no agreement being concluded by November 2010. [146237]

Gillian Merron: European Transport Ministers have given the European Commission a mandate to secure a full transatlantic open aviation area. The UK wants to see, in particular, further liberalisation of market access, including US ownership and control rules, while further enhancing co-operation in areas such as environmental protection, security, consumer protection, and the elimination of state subsidies.

The stage 1 agreement sets out a clear timetable for the signature of a second stage deal. We hope that it will be possible to reach an acceptable agreement within this timescale. But the EU has already agreed, in its decision on the signature of the agreement, that in the event this timetable is not met, a process will automatically be set in hand to suspend traffic rights for US air carriers.

Aviation: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which noise monitors in *(a)* Wandsworth, *(b)* South West London and *(c)* West London have provided data used in noise pollution modelling as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow; where those noise monitors were situated; and if he will make a statement. [146303]

Gillian Merron: Modelling to estimate future aircraft noise exposure at Heathrow is being carried out using the Civil Aviation Authority's Aircraft Noise Contour Model (ANCON). The model is validated against information obtained from 10 fixed monitors under the departure tracks at Heathrow, supplemented by additional mobile noise monitors. Since 2000, monitoring has included data from mobile monitors in Fulham, Barnes, Richmond, Isleworth and Twickenham. The methodology is set out in ERCD Report 0307 and the location of fixed and mobile monitoring sites is shown in ERCD Report 0406, both of which are available on the CAA website

www.caa.co.uk

Bridges: Downton

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Tannery bridge replacement project at Downton, Wiltshire is funded by his Department under the EU bridge strengthening programme; and what *(a)* the original scheme cost estimate, *(b)* the tender price agreed with the contractor and *(c)* the current estimated out-turn cost of the project are. [146277]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not received a bid for funding to support the replacement of the Tannery bridge. This scheme is a matter for the local highway authority, Wiltshire county council.

Bus Services

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of public service buses in service in England. [146293]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1765W.

Bus Services: Standards

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are available to each of the Traffic Commissioners to monitor the reliability of bus services in each of the English regions. [146262]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) employs 10 staff based in England whose role includes the monitoring of bus service reliability. Their bases by traffic region are in the following table.

	Number
North Eastern and North Western	4
Eastern	1
South Eastern	2
Western	2
West Midlands	1

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of the bus fleet received an unannounced inspection allocated on a random basis by the Traffic Commissioners in each of the last five years. [146263]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) conducts unannounced inspections on bus fleets. It does not record the proportion of these requested by the Traffic Commissioners as opposed to other enforcement work.

The results of spot checks by VOSA where operator based are published annually in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at: www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many buses were inspected by VOSA officials in each of the last five years; and how many such buses were consequently subject to an *(a)* immediate and *(b)* delayed prohibition notice. [146265]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publishes statistics on bus inspections, immediate and delayed prohibition notices annually in its Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or from the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the distribution of responsibility for delays to bus services between *(a)* congestion, *(b)* mechanical failures and *(c)* fleet management. [146266]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold data on the causes of delays to buses. However, it does collect data on the causes of scheduled mileage not run by buses. These are published in Section 2 of the quarterly bulletin "Bus and Light Rail Statistics GB", copies of which are held in the House of Commons Library.

Cycling: Helmets

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents on the subject of cycle helmets. [144792]

Dr. Ladyman: None.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to promote the wearing of cycle helmets by *(a)* children, *(b)* teenagers and *(c)* the general population. [144793]

Dr. Ladyman: For children the Department has set up the "Hedgehogs" website www.hedgehogs.gov.uk and publishes "Arrive Alive" (A Highway Code for young road users).

For teenagers the Department has set up the "Cycle Sense" safety campaign encouraging teenagers to wear helmets. The campaign consists of a series of posters, a website www.cyclesense.co.uk and a supporting TV filler film. At the end of February Think! launched a new teen road safety campaign with MTV. This will include an advertisement on cycling safety encouraging helmet wearing and will air on MTV channels week commencing 16 July.

For adults and the general cycling population the Driving Standards Agency publishes The Highway Code which encourages all cyclists to wear a helmet.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage of cyclists in the UK who wear protective headgear; and if he will make a statement. [144794]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1793-94W.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whom he has designated as responsible for the management of inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* other sources. [146264]

Gillian Merron: The Department has exactly the same arrangements and process for deciding what information is to be disclosed and what is exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act, whether the FOI request comes from an hon. Member or any other person.

Decisions on exemptions are made by officials, except in the case of exemptions under Section 36 where a Minister is the 'qualified person' as defined by the Act. This applies irrespective of who makes the request.

In the Department all requests for information under the FOI regime are handled by the area responsible for the subject matter.

The responses come from different people, depending on whether the request is from an hon. Member, the media, or someone else. Responses to requests from an hon. Member are made by a Minister. In other cases, the response is made by an appropriate official. For requests from the media, the response is sent by a press officer. Where the applicant is from the legal profession, it is sent by a legal adviser. In all cases, responses are approved by the responsible member of the Senior Civil Service in the department.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the Motor Insurance Database. [146232]

Dr. Ladyman: The accuracy of the Motor Insurance Database (MID) is solely the responsibility of the Insurance industry.

The latest figures (mid June) indicate that 94.4 per cent. of all appropriate records are provided to the Motor Insurance Database (MID) within seven days. This is in line with expectations to meet the target of 95

per cent. of all appropriate records provided to the Motor Insurance Bureau within seven days by 1 January 2008.

The police make extensive use of the MID to help identify vehicles being driven uninsured. They have had considerable success in removing uninsured vehicles from the road and although there have been occasional instances where a vehicle has been seized as a result of inaccurate data these are very rare and generally the MID is considered reliable for current enforcement purpose.

Public Transport: Gosport

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are for improvements in access to the Gosport peninsula. [146284]

Gillian Merron: Improvements to the local transport network are the responsibility of Hampshire county council.

Access to and within the Gosport peninsula has been considered by the council in its second Local Transport Plan. This sets out the county's transport strategy until 2011, and allocates some £4 million towards schemes to address congestion and access issues on the Gosport peninsula. These include a series of junction improvements on the A32 and B3385 corridor, as well as improvements to public transport.

In addition the local authorities in the Solent area are working together developing transport strategies to improve access to Southampton, Portsmouth, and the wider area. With the help of Government funding they are starting work on three studies, one of which, entitled Access to South East Hampshire, sets out to identify appropriate interventions to address key bottlenecks on transport networks in and around the Gosport peninsula.

Railways

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many locomotives in use on the rail network are older than 10 years old. [146290]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table gives details of the locomotives used by UK franchised passenger train operators, broken down by train operating company and class. Not included are vehicles operated by Scotrail (for which Transport Scotland is responsible) and non-franchised operators such as Network Rail, open access and charter operators. Information on the number of freight vehicles used on the network is not held by the Department.

This information is based on latest available data but variations in the figures can be expected due to short-term vehicle hiring, introduction of new fleets and withdrawal of older vehicles and cascades.

The locomotives shown in Table 1 were all manufactured more than 10 years ago but most have been substantially modified or re-engined since that time.

Table 1: Locomotives

Train operating company	*Class*	*More than 10 years old?*	*Number of vehicles*
First Great Western	43	Yes	117
First Great Western	57	Yes	4
Gatwick Express	73	Yes	1
GNER	91	Yes	31
GNER	43	Yes	32
One	90	Yes	15
One	86	Yes	3
Midland Mainline	43	Yes	31
Virgin West Coast	57	Yes	16

Roads: Construction

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated for the construction of the proposed Bexhill to Hastings link road; and if he will make a statement. [146075]

Gillian Merron: The Bexhill to Hastings link road scheme was granted Programme Entry in December 2004 with an agreed departmental funding contribution of £47.12 million. In July 2006, we accepted the South East region's advice that the scheme was a priority for the region at an increased cost of £48.5 million. However, it has since been reported that the estimated total cost of the scheme has increased to around £89 million. As a result, the South East region will need to decide whether it still wishes to prioritise funding for this scheme at its higher cost within its regional funding allocations. Should the region formally advise that the scheme continues to be a priority, it will then be subject to a re-appraisal and value for money assessment in accordance with the Department's guidance before a final decision is taken on whether to provide additional funding for the scheme.

TREASURY

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140028]

John Healey: With the following exceptions, the information for the Chancellor's Departments and their agencies could be provided at disproportionate cost only. Information on spending on recruitment consultancy is not held in a format whereby it can be separated out from other external management consultancy, or from the cost of agency staff. The Government Actuary's Department has provided a nil return, the Valuation Office Agency can confirm that it did not use recruitment consultants during 2006-07, and the Royal Mint and the Debt Management Office have been able to provide the following figures for recruitment consultancy fees.

	Royal Mint	Debt Management Office
1997-98	61	[1]
1998-99	70	[1]
1999-2000	91	[1]
2000-01	89	[1]
2001-02	70	[1]
2002-03	70	57
2003-04	34	22
2004-05	83	29
2005-06	125	99
2006-07	182	69

[1] Figures for years prior to 2002-03 could be provided at disproportionate cost only due to a change in accounting system in that year.

Departments: Taxis

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on taxis in 2006-07. [139999]

John Healey: Use of a taxi at the Treasury's expense is not an entitlement and official journeys should wherever possible be made on public transport. However, when there is no reasonable and cost-effective alternative, for example when travelling home after working late into the night, the Treasury may justify the use of a taxi. Expenditure in 2006-07 was £188,000.

Mid-Essex Hospital Trust: Childbirth

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many babies were born in hospitals run by the Mid-Essex Hospital Trust in each of the last 10 years. [145963]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 June 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many babies were born in hospitals run by Mid-Essex Hospital Trust in each of the last 10 years. (145963)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available figures by place of birth are for 2005. The attached table shows the figures requested for the years 1996 to 2005.

Live births in hospitals run by Mid-Essex Hospital Trust[1], 1996 to 2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree	222	211	157	162	116	161	164	135	128	235
St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford	3,444	3,472	3,377	3,357	3,237	3,071	3,106	3,266	3,265	3,256
Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford	0	3	2	3	1	1	5	3	1	4
St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon	171	166	175	127	142	169	124	165	177	205
Total Mid-Essex Hospital Trust	3,837	3,852	3,711	3,649	3,496	3,402	3,399	3,569	3,571	3,700

[1] St. Michael's Hospital in Braintree and the Chelmsford and Essex Centre are also run by Mid-Essex Hospital Trust, but no live births took place in these establishments between 1996 and 2005.

Tax Allowances: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims made by members of HM armed forces for laundry allowance while on deployments and exercises were granted in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* total value of the tax allowance and *(b)* average allowance per claimant was in each of those years; [146296]

(2) for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs does not meet claims made by members of HM armed forces for laundry allowance while on deployments and exercises; and if he will make a statement. [146297]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold the information requested about the number and value of claims for tax relief for laundry expenses.

Members of the armed forces are normally entitled to free laundry facilities when on deployments and exercises. No tax relief is due in these circumstances.

Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the long-term financial effect of *(a)* reducing the basic rate of tax from 22p to 20p and *(b)* abolishing the 10p lower level of tax on pensions over the next (i) 10, (ii) 20, (iii) 30, (iv) 40 and (v) 50 years. [138030]

Ed Balls: The Government do not judge there will be discernable long-term financial effect on pensions resulting from changes to income tax announced in Budget 2007. Any long-term financial effect would depend not only on the marginal rates of relief but also on the future structure of the tax system, the numbers saving for pensions and their contribution levels, the numbers in receipt of pensions and any behavioural response to the changes in rates of relief.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the reform of taxation for older people on low incomes; if he will commission further research on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [146257]

Ed Balls: The Government have received a number of representations on this subject following the reforms to personal taxation announced in this year's Budget. For older people, the Budget announced that the

age-related income tax allowances for those aged 65 or over and 75 or over will rise by £1,180 above indexation in April 2008. By April 2011 no pensioner aged 75 or over will pay any tax until their income reaches £10,000 a year. These reforms will remove 580,000 pensioners from paying tax in April 2008.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many instances there have been of debt caused by overpayment of tax credits being *(a)* generated and *(b)* subsequently cancelled, broken down by (i) constituency or (ii) nearest equivalent geographical area in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was (A) generated and (B) cancelled in each such area in the same period. [146241]

Dawn Primarolo: Statistical information relating to working tax credit and child tax credit is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information about overpayments of tax credits, which HM Revenue and Customs decide claimants should not be asked to pay back in accordance with its Code of Practice 26, is not kept at constituency or regional level.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what means a woman whose husband reaches 65 years is advised of her right to claim a pension based on his contributions to replace the pension she is drawing based on her own contributions. [146242]

James Purnell: The Pension Service contacts customers four months before they reach state pension age to invite them to claim state pension by telephone.

Over the phone they are asked to provide their marital status and, if appropriate, the national insurance number of their spouse. If the man is married and his wife is over state pension age and in receipt of a basic state pension based on her own contributions but which is less than the rate of pension based on her husband's contributions, a claim form is issued to her.

If customers who wish to claim by post, they are asked to complete and return a tear-off slip from the invitation to request a claim pack. The tear-off asks men "Is your wife aged 60 or over?" If the customer ticks "yes", a claim form is also sent out to their wife.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 29 June 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadcasting Programmes: Scots Gaelic Language

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the new Gaelic television channel is expected to commence transmission. [146015]

Mr. Lammy: A precise date has not yet been set. However, we hope the new Gaelic digital service, providing a vastly improved service to the Gaelic-speaking community not only in its heartlands of the Highlands and Islands, but across Scotland, will be launched as soon as is practicable.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145970]

Mr. Lammy: The percentage of stress-related sick leave taken by staff in the last three financial years is as follows:

	Percentage of sick leave
2004-05	3
2005-06	10.5
2006-07	13

The Department has been improving the way in which it monitors and records sickness absence.

As part of our attendance, health and welfare programme for staff, we have a range of policies in place to reduce stress. These include: a stress management policy; a revised sickness absence policy; a full range of flexible working patterns to support work-life balance; an on-site gym and yoga classes.

The Department also launched the employee assistance programme in April 2007, which includes a confidential advisory service and counselling service for all staff.

We will also be undertaking a stress audit at the end of 2007, beginning of 2008.

DEFENCE

Army: Reserve Forces

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the present strength is of the Army Volunteer Reserve. [146763]

Mr. Ingram: The present strength of the Army Volunteer Reserve (Territorial Army) as at 1 March 2007 is 35,700. This figure includes Mobilised Territorial Army and Officer Training Corps, but excludes full-time reserve service personnel and non-regular permanent staff.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the 1 April 2007 data will be available under heading TSP07 Strength of all Services Reserves and Cadets on the Defence Analytical Service Agency website. [146764]

Mr. Ingram: "TSP7 UK Reserves and Cadets Strengths at 1 April 2007" will be published on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website during September 2007. The actual date of publication will be pre-announced not less than two weeks prior to publication on the Office for National Statistics website in line with National Statistics protocols.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the missile defence feasibility study that was delivered to the NATO summit in Riga in 2006. [146743]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 165W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Defence Equipment: Exhibitions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) from which countries buyers *(a)* have been and *(b)* will be invited to the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition at the ExCel Centre in September; [145715]

(2) on which days the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition will be open to *(a)* overseas customers, *(b)* the press and *(c)* the public; and what estimate he has made of the number of visitors expected at the event; [145716]

(3) what the estimated cost of the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition is to the public purse. [145717]

Mr. Ingram: The full list of countries that will receive official invitations to Defence Systems and Equipment International is still being finalised. The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) intends to publish a list of those countries from which delegations are invited a day or so in advance of the exhibition opening, the timing being consistent with the security of guests. It is planned to place this list on the DESO internet site:

www.deso.mod.uk

The exhibition is organised by Reed Exhibitions Ltd. We understand it will be open to registered visitors including from overseas, and accredited media representatives between 11-14 September 2007. It will not be open to the general public. An estimate of the number of visitors likely to attend is a matter for the organisers.

The costs of hosting official overseas delegations at DSEiO7 will largely be met by the organisers. The balance of these costs met from Defence funds is expected to be in the region of £120,000. Other MOD costs will be met from a number of budgets and an estimate of these cannot be centrally made. No estimate has been made of costs for which MOD is not responsible.

Departments: Assets

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assets and resources have been disposed of by his Department in the last 10 years; and what revenues have been accrued as a result. [145490]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* Tens of thousands of individual fixed assets are disposed of annually, either as a result of changing requirements, upgrade or replacement programmes or where equipment has reached the end of its serviceable life. Information on all items disposed of could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Proceeds from the disposal of fixed assets were not held centrally before financial year 1999-2000. From 1999-2000 the figures are as follows:

Financial year	*Proceeds (£)*
1999-2000	234,862,000
2000-01	317,987,000
2001-02	287,923,000
2002-03	404,774,000
2003-04	481,298,000
2004-05	266,912,000
2005-06	299,317,000

Departments: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's *(a)* Executive agencies, *(b)* Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* tribunal NDPBs, *(d)* advisory NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations for the current financial year. [146776]

Mr. Ingram: The information is as follows:

Executive agencies

Defence Analytical Services Agency
Defence Medical Education and Training Agency
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency
Defence Vetting Agency
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency
People Pay and Pensions Agency
Service Children's Education
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Executive non-departmental public bodies

National Army Museum
RAF Museum
Royal Naval Museum
Royal Navy Submarine Museum
Royal Marines Museum

Advisory non-departmental public bodies

Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors
Advisory Group on Medical Countermeasures
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Armed Forces Pay Review Body
Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions
Defence Nuclear Safety Committee
Defence Scientific Advisory Council
National Employer Advisory Board
Nuclear Research Advisory Council
Review Board for Government Contracts
War Pensions Committees

Trading funds

ABRO
Defence Aviation Repair Agency
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Met Office
UK Hydrographic Office

Public corporations

Oil and Pipelines Agency
Fleet Air Arm Museum

Departments: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the concordat governing the relationship between his Department and the Northern Ireland administration. [145942]

Mr. Ingram: No such concordat exists.

The principles set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and Supplementary Agreements between the UK Government, Scottish Ministers, the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive, published in 2001, continue to underpin our working relationship with the Northern Ireland Executive.

RAF Brize Norton

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Ministry of Defence regulations for civil aircraft use of RAF Brize Norton. [145308]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* Yes, once the regulations have been redacted to remove classified information.

Rendition

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates aircraft HZ-124 has landed at RAF Brize Norton since 21 May 2007. [145309]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of travel arrangements of foreign governments.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1052W, on rendition, on which 14 dates aircraft HZ-124 landed at RAF Brize Norton between 1 July 2006 and 21 May 2007; and what the total amount is of the fees paid by the owner of HZ-124 to his Department for using RAF Brize Norton since 1 July 2006. [145488]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of travel arrangements by foreign governments. The fees for the use of RAF Brize Norton by aircraft HZ-124 since 1 July 2006 were waived in accordance with the regulations in Chapter 7, Annex F of Joint Service Publication 360, which govern the waiver of charges for the use of military airfields by British and foreign civil and military aircraft.

The hon. Member may also wish to note that my answer of the 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1053W, was incorrect and should have read:

> Since 1 July 2006, aircraft HZ 124 has landed 15 times at RAF Brize Norton. The aircraft operated in accordance with the MOD regulations for civil aircraft use of military airfields. The regulations also cover the applicability and level of landing, housing, parking and insurance fees charges. The regulations have been adhered to for each flight.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Recycling

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research has been conducted by the Department and its agencies on *(a)* the effectiveness of the Green Dot approach to recycling in the countries that have adopted this initiative and *(b)* assessing its feasibility in the UK; [145621]

(2) what factors the Government take into account when deciding whether to adopt the Green Dot approach to recycling; and what assessment the Government have made of its use in other European Union member states. [146136]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answers 27 June 2007]:* No such research has been conducted and my Department has not carried out any assessments of the systems employed in other member states.

The Green Dot system is used in several member states to transpose the requirements of the EU directive on packaging and packaging waste. The Green Dot is a licensed trademark which denotes compliance with an authorised packaging recovery scheme in other European Union member states. Its use indicates that a financial contribution has been paid to a national packaging recovery company, set up in accordance with the principles defined in the EU directive and the national law which transposes it.

The Green Dot is not a recycling symbol, although is often misinterpreted as such, so should not be used to denote general recyclability or recycled content.

The Green Dot system is not used in the UK; producer responsibility obligations are fulfilled via a different method. The management of packaging and packaging waste is covered by two sets of regulations in the UK, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 and the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended). The packaging waste regulations require producers to buy packaging waste recovery notes (PRNs), or the export equivalent (PERNs), to demonstrate that they have financed a certain amount of recycling. Introducing a Green Dot system, therefore, would simply mean changing the system we have used in the UK to implement the provision of the packaging directive, rather than extending producer responsibility.

The approach that has been taken by the UK is unique and was formulated and agreed with industry following the adoption of the EU directive on packaging and packaging waste.

Waste Disposal: Nappies

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of reusable nappies to reductions in landfill material. [146506]

Mr. Bradshaw: Disposable nappies form 2-3 per cent. of the household waste stream, approximately 400,000 tonnes per year.

Reusable nappies may reduce demands on landfill but they still impact on the environment in other ways, such as the water and energy used in washing and drying them. In May 2005, the Environment Agency published a report entitled "A Life Cycle Assessment of disposable and reusable nappies in the UK". The report concluded that there was no significant difference between any of the environmental impacts of the disposable, home use reusable and commercial laundry systems that were assessed. None of the systems studied were more or less environmentally preferable.

The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) Real Nappy Campaign was established to promote the use of reusable nappies. The three-year campaign succeeded in diverting approximately 23,000 tonnes of biodegradable nappy waste from landfill in England.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the length of time required for a disposable nappy to fully decompose in landfill and *(b)* the number of tonnes of (i) carbon dioxide, (ii) methane and (iii) other greenhouse gases which are emitted by landfill disposable nappies in each (A) first 10 years after disposal and (B) subsequent decade until total decomposition. [146507]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Wisard software tool used by the Environment Agency in their report, "Life Cycle Assessment of Disposable and Reusable Nappies in the UK", assumed a 500 year time boundary for leachate in landfill. The Environment Agency therefore concluded that it would take that amount of time for the plastic part of a disposable nappy to decompose. The paper-fluff and faeces should take approximately 100 and 10 years respectively to degrade.

My Department does not hold the information requested on the gases emitted by landfilled disposable nappies. However, the Environment Agency's report (available from their website and the Library of the House) does contain some information on the impacts of disposable nappies on global warming and the gases involved.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the annual volume of disposable nappies going to landfill in each of the last five years. [146552]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2122W.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1371W, on waste management, which measures his Department *(a)* has introduced and *(b)* plans to introduce that are specifically designed to reduce the amount of waste that the UK produces. [146100]

Mr. Bradshaw: Waste Strategy for England 2007, published on 24 May 2007, sets out a range of measures which will drive the reduction of the amount of waste produced in England. Table 8.6 of the strategy summarises how these measures will help to drive waste reduction. Further detail is available throughout the strategy which is available on the DEFRA website and in the Library of the House.

Waste management is a devolved matter and, in the rest of the United Kingdom, is the responsibility of the respective devolved Administrations.

Written Questions

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 17 May to the Minister of State on recycling plants. [146705]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 20 June 2007. I apologise for the delay which occurred due to high volumes of correspondence received.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cuba: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Cuba. [145771]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The June EU Council Conclusions on Cuba reaffirmed the UK view that there have been no significant changes to the political, economic and social system in Cuba over the last year, despite the temporary transfer of power from Fidel to Raul Castro last July. The conclusions state that the Council

"deplores that the human rights situation has not fundamentally changed"

and observe that

"the Cuban Government continues to deny its citizens internationally recognised civil, political and economic rights and freedoms".

In response to this lack of change, UK/EU policy continues to be based on the 1996 EU Common Position, which states that the EU's main objective is to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy in Cuba. The UK/EU remains committed to a two-track policy of intensive dialogue with both the Cuban Government 'and' civil society in Cuba. We also continue to urge the Cuban Government to improve human rights standards in Cuba, including the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2001-02; and at what total cost. [146589]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office introduced performance-related bonus payments for staff in its senior management structure (senior civil service) in 2003-04. We did not pay bonuses to senior staff during the period from 1997 to 2001-02.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings involving UK *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers with (i) officials and (ii) Ministers of other EU countries were held to discuss the EU Amending treaty in the three months before 23 June 2007. [146250]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the former Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the former Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), the former Minister for Europe and officials had numerous meetings with EU partners in the period leading up to the European Council. Discussions covered many areas, including EU institutional reform. My right hon. Friend the former Foreign Secretary's discussions included those with her EU counterparts at the 17-18 June General Affairs and External Relations Council, which considered a presidency report on EU institutional reform.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance has been given to Iraqi citizens who have provided interpretation services for official UK representatives in Iraq to *(a)* enter and *(b)* remain in the UK on grounds of their security; and how many Iraqis have been assisted in this way. [146018]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a central record of applications for assistance to enter and remain in the UK on grounds of security, from Iraqi citizens who have provided interpretation services for UK representatives in Iraq. In order to answer my hon. Friend's question accurately, officials at all diplomatic posts, and some Departments in the UK, would be required to examine all their records since 2003, which would incur disproportionate cost.

As I said in my response to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2206W, in line with our policy worldwide, we do not comment on the substance of individual immigration or consular cases, and all applications are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

HEALTH

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the adequacy of specialist services for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if he will make a statement; [146603]

(2) when *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department last met representatives of the charities and organisations working on behalf of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis patients; and what matters were discussed. [146604]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no assessment of the impact of the adequacy of specialist services for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

We are not aware of any recent meetings by ministers or officials with representatives of charities and organisations working on behalf of those living with CFS/ME.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Connecting for Health has paid Google for the sponsored link on Google's search engine; and which words or phrases in the search criteria bring up Connecting for Health as a sponsored link. [141977]

Caroline Flint: This link was established by a communications agency contracted to NHS Connecting for Health without authorisation and without consultation on the search criteria used. This was part of a wider programme of initiatives to improve communications about the Connecting for Health programme. The arrangement has been terminated. No costs have been borne by NHS Connecting for Health or indeed by the taxpayer.

We are exploring with the agency concerned the circumstances under which this arrangement was made and the terms under which it operated, including the search criteria. We will write to the hon. Member when these inquiries are complete, and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust in each of the last 10 years; and what the average allocation was to hospital trusts in England over the same period. [146245]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not national health service trusts or individual hospitals. NHS trusts receive most of their income through the commissioning arrangements they have with PCTs.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Appeals

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time a Home Office presenting officer spent on *(a)* a deportation appeal, *(b)* an asylum appeal and *(c)* an immigration appeal, excluding the time spent travelling and waiting for, and presenting, an appeal hearing was over the last 12 months. [141409]

Jacqui Smith: Over the last 12 months the average time spent by a presenting officer on an individual deportation appeal or an individual asylum appeal was three hours and thirty-six minutes. The average time spent by a presenting officer on an individual immigration appeal was one hour and thirty-six minutes. These figures exclude time spent travelling, waiting for and presenting appeal hearings. They represent the average preparation time spent by a presenting officer for each case type.

It should be noted, however. that this is only an average time. Cases vary tremendously in their complexity, therefore Presenting Officers will spend whatever time is required to prepare a case to the necessary standard.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Trade Unions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions he has met members of the University and College Union to discuss academic boycotts. [146158]

Bill Rammell: In the course of regular discussions with the University and College Union I have discussed academic boycotts and made clear the Government's opposition to them.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC Capital Partners: Pensions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to provide guarantees for *(a)* present and *(b)* former employees of CDC that their pensions will be assured following any flotation or sale. [146706]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID has no present plans for a flotation or sale of CDC.

Pension benefits for current and former CDC employees are provided through the CDC pensions scheme. This is a conventional UK occupational pension scheme, established under trust and with its assets entirely separate from CDC. No payment can be made from the scheme to CDC, except in circumstances where the scheme is wound up, and a surplus exists after all benefits have been secured in full by the purchase of annuities.

The most recent actuarial valuation was undertaken on 31 March 2006. This showed the scheme, although better funded than most UK pension schemes, to have a shortfall of assets against liabilities. Additional contributions are being paid by CDC to remove that shortfall. In addition, CDC has put aside significant

additional assets in a contingent funding arrangement which safeguards the future payment of the shortfall contributions and provides materially improved security for the accrued benefits of scheme members.

Developing Countries: Sight Impaired

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with EU counterparts on improving the availability of accessible eye-care in developing countries. [146478]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Neither I nor my predecessor have had any discussions with EU counterparts about improving the availability of accessible eye-care in developing countries.

JUSTICE

Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal notified the Home Office of the judge's decision in Tribunal Case VA/31440/2006 (FCO number 1198381), promulgated on 29 March, about the case of Mr. M.I. sponsored by Mr. R.A. of Aylesbury. [146722]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information shows that the immigration judge decision was served to all parties on the 29 March 2007.

In entry clearance and family visitor appeals the determination is served upon BIA who will arrange for the forwarding of the determination to the entry clearance post that made the original refusal.

National Offender Management Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the National Offender Management Service in each year since its inception; and what the budget distribution was per region in each year. [146746]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Service was created on 1 June 2004. The net resource outturn as recorded in the Home Office accounts, is as follows:

	£
2004-05	[1]3,695,058,000
2005-06	4,084,141,000
2006-07	[2]4,342,070,000

[1] Figures relate to the full year
[2] Provisional subject to audit

Significant parts of the NOMS' budget are not distributed on a regional basis, and the local services may serve a wider catchment area than their geographical location, so a regional analysis of the overall NOMS budget cannot be achieved without disproportionate cost.

Peterborough Prison: Prisoners Release

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners in HMP Peterborough who are likely to be released early; and if he will make a statement. [146315]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for release are not available to be broken down by establishment.

Prisoners: Police Stations

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 June to question 144968, on police cells costs, what range of nightly cost was used in calculating the £385 per night average cost; what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest nightly invoice received so far is; and whether his Department is made aware of the cost per night before placing prisoners in police cells. [146479]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Police forces do not invoice nightly for Operation Safeguard expenses. The £385 per prisoner per night figure was calculated by applying experience of the costs of Operation Safeguard in 2002. Police forces may submit monthly, bi-monthly or consolidated invoices and the highest and lowest nightly invoices are therefore not centrally held.

The actual cost of holding a prisoner under Operation Safeguard varies between forces.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the Leader of the House which hon. Members elected at the 2005 election are not drawing their salaries as hon. Members. [146477]

Ms Harman: All current Members elected at the 2005 election are at present drawing their salary except for the five Sinn Fein MPs, none of whom have taken the Oath.

PRIME MINISTER

Accident and Emergency Departments: Closures

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to meet the Secretary of State for Health to discuss the closures of accident and emergency departments. [146484]

The Prime Minister: I shall be meeting all ministerial colleagues.

TRANSPORT

Community Railways Initiative

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made on each of the six pilots in the Community Rail Development Strategy; [146715]

(2) what progress has been made on identifying and separating out maintenance and renewal costs for community rail lines as envisaged in the Community Rail Development Strategy; [146716]

(3) what plans her Department has to implement the Community Rail Development Strategy; [146717]

(4) what progress has been made in increasing use of community rail lines as envisaged in the Community Rail Development Strategy. [146718]

Mr. Tom Harris: A review of the Community Rail Development Strategy, setting out progress in implementing the strategy and plans for further action, was published in March 2007. A copy is available in the House Library.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on single wagon marshalling for freight on the UK rail network. [146254]

Mr. Tom Harris: Freight operations on the UK rail network are a commercial matter for the private sector companies which operate the trains.

TREASURY

Members: Correspondence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 3 May 2007 from the hon. Member for North Down on the supply of a VAT number to Lighthouse Electrical in Donaghadee, County Down. [147195]

Dawn Primarolo: I replied to the hon. Lady on 26 June.

Taxation: Shipping

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue HM Revenue and Customs received from businesses subject to incorrect Customs procedures codes being entered on export shipments of inward processing relief goods in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [145093]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC advise me that to September 2006, errors have been identified involving 484 businesses. The total revenue involved amounts to £19.7 million customs duty and £81.9 million recoverable import VAT. Of the 484 confirmed cases, 203 have been granted remission from customs duty; following a departmental review by HMRC. This has remitted 564,000 of the £19.7 million customs duty.

WALES

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146325]

Mr. Hain: Since its inception in July 1999, the Wales Office has spent the following on external consultants.

	£
2000-01	16,294
2001-02	31,084
2002-03	10,758
2006-07	37,699

None of these consultants undertook work in excess of £10 million.

Departments: Domestic Visits

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what visits have been made by Wales Office Ministers to Welsh prisons; and what the dates of such visits were in the last 12 months. [146287]

Mr. Hain: Prisons in Wales are the responsibility of the Ministry for Justice. Neither myself nor the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales has visited a Welsh prison in the last 12 months, but we have had discussions with ministerial colleagues about prison issues in Wales.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146085]

Mr. Hain: Officials in the Economic and European Affairs Policy Branch of the Wales Office are involved to a limited degree in EU business. None work exclusively on EU business.

Driving: Insurance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on action taken by the police to identify uninsured drivers in Wales. [146554]

Mr. Hain: I understand that the police make extensive use of insurance data made available through the Motor Insurers' Bureau to tackle the serious problem of uninsured driving. I understand that the latest figures indicate that 94.4 per cent. of all appropriate records are provided to the Motor Insurance Database within seven days. This is in line with expectations to meet the target of 95 per cent. of all appropriate records provided to the database within seven days by 1 January 2008.

Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what visits he has made to Wales on ministerial business; and what the purpose and date of each visit was. [146286]

Mr. Hain: Since becoming Secretary of State in 2002, I have always undertaken a busy programme of meetings, visits and functions with a wide range of organisations

in Wales. It would require a disproportionate cost to identify and list all of the visits I have made, but specific examples are referred to in the Wales Office annual reports.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseekers Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1741W, on jobseeker's allowance, if he will provide equivalent data for 1997. [146573]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were in the New Deal for Young People in each month since 1998. [146480]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Participants on New Deal for Young People

Month of participation	*Number of participants*
July 1998	102,490
August 1998	112,800
September 1998	120,050
October 1998	126,090
November 1998	129,940
December 1998	133,130
January 1999	138,490
February 1999	141,760
March 1999	144,530
April 1999	145,560
May 1999	145,730
June 1999	144,410
July 1999	145,990
August 1999	143,560
September 1999	138,050
October 1999	131,360
November 1999	126,800
December 1999	127,700
January 2000	129,470
February 2000	128,730
March 2000	128,350
April 2000	127,090
May 2000	126,120
June 2000	122,550
July 2000	121,980
August 2000	119,350
September 2000	111 ,400
October 2000	106,430
November 2000	103,080

Participants on New Deal for Young People

Month of participation	*Number of participants*
December 2000	103,810
January 2001	105,820
February 2001	104,670
March 2001	103,550
April 2001	102,950
May 2001	102,310
June 2001	99,550
July 2001	100,220
August 2001	97,940
September 2001	94,730
October 2001	91,600
November 2001	89,410
December 2001	90,550
January 2002	92,450
February 2002	94,370
March 2002	96,170
April 2002	97,180
May 2002	98,110
June 2002	96,400
July 2002	97,730
August 2002	96,110
September 2002	92,510
October 2002	89,930
November 2002	87,530
December 2002	88,860
January 2003	92,460
February 2003	92,870
March 2003	94,440
April 2003	94,430
May 2003	95,150
June 2003	94,360
July 2003	96,410
August 2003	95,690
September 2003	92,640
October 2003	88,960
November 2003	87,320
December 2003	88,190
January 2004	90,470
February 2004	90,300
March 2004	90,680
April 2004	90,310
May 2004	89,940
June 2004	87,760
July 2004	87,820
August 2004	86,460
September 2004	82,770
October 2004	78,810
November 2004	77,610
December 2004	78,720
January 2005	80,500
February 2005	81,400
March 2005	82,490
April 2005	83,840
May 2005	84,670
June 2005	83,360
July 2005	85,970
August 2005	86,480
September 2005	83,840
October 2005	82,060
November 2005	81,310

Participants on New Deal for Young People

Month of participation	*Number of participants*
December 2005	83,440
January 2006	86,770
February 2006	88,390
March 2006	91,840
April 2006	93,660
May 2006	95,930
June 2006	95,340
July 2006	97,780
August 2006	97,790
September 2006	93,320
October 2006	90,360
November 2006	88,380

Notes:
1. A person participating on the programme for more than one month will be included in the table for each month that they are participating.
2. Information on participants is only available from July 1998.
3. Latest data is to November 2006.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, DWP.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 2 July 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure that UK resident citizens detained at Guantanamo Bay receive regular health checks; and if he will make a statement. [146596]

Dr. Howells: There are no longer any British nationals detained in Guantanamo Bay. However, we continue to raise humanitarian and human rights concerns about those other nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay with the US authorities, including issues relating to detainees who were formerly resident in the UK. In this context, we have recently been told that all detainees at Guantanamo Bay have regular access to medical professionals.

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the US authorities on securing independent investigations into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment of UK citizens while detained at Guantanamo Bay; and if he will make a statement. [146597]

Dr. Howells: We take all allegations of mistreatment of British nationals abroad very seriously and unreservedly condemn the use of torture.

There are no longer any British nationals detained in Guantanamo Bay. However, we did pursue all credible allegations of abuse regarding those British detainees who were detained there and subsequently released in 2004 and 2005. We pressed the US to examine the allegations. We also raised concerns about issues including isolation, lack of access to daylight and lack of exercise with respect to the British detainees, and secured a number of improvements to their physical conditions of detention.

Arms Trade: Firearms

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to establish an international treaty to prohibit the sale of small arms. [146613]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to leading work to secure a legally binding treaty to set standards for the international trade in conventional arms, including small arms. On 6 December 2006 we secured agreement to start a UN process to take forward this work, with the backing of 153 states. In March we submitted to the UN the United Kingdom's views on the initiative, making clear we envisage a treaty which will allow the responsible sale of small arms but will prohibit their sale in certain cases, including where they will be used in the commission of serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law, or to provoke or exacerbate internal or regional conflict.

Commonwealth: International Conferences

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects the President of the host country for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kampala to exercise the prerogative to extend invitations outside designated member states; and if he will make a statement. [147186]

Dr. Howells: The host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) may extend invitations to non-member states in consultation with the Commonwealth Secretary-General and on this basis the Government of Uganda has invited two members of the East Africa Community, Rwanda and Burundi, to the CHOGM in Kampala this November. The Commonwealth Secretary-General is responsible for extending invitations to other international organisations.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on Departments: advertising, what terms and conditions apply to membership of the Know Before You Go campaign and the granting of an entry and logo display on the list of the Department's campaign partners on its website. [145987]

Dr. Howells: The following terms and conditions apply to becoming a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Know Before You Go (KBYG) campaign and having an entry and logo display on the FCO website:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel

A potential partner is required to complete an 'information form' which the KBYG team uses to assess the applicant's suitability. The applicant is asked to provide details of the reach of the organisation and relevant customer base; their media spend, the number of communication channels they use and what is their association with one or more of a list of KBYG recognised high risk groups.

If suitable, a potential partner is sent a Partner Framework and Agreement to sign which sets out the following requirements: promoting key messages of the campaign including FCO Travel Advice; encouraging travellers to get adequate and comprehensive travel insurance; informing travellers about preparations they need to make before travelling; informing travellers about the consular assistance they can and cannot receive once abroad.

Furthermore, a partner will have the responsibility wherever possible to promote the campaign to its customers through its own communications initiatives and distribute marketing materials. The partner will also need to have a secure and established website or newsletter, which hosts the KBYG logo and link to the

FCO website in a prominent position. We also expect where possible the partner to work together with other partners and the FCO on a strategic level to leverage the campaign and where appropriate offer feedback and case studies of campaign activity.

We also request that the applicant operates in accordance with best practice guidelines or codes of conduct, as outlined by relevant industry bodies, trade associations or professional institutions. The terms and conditions make clear that being part of this campaign by no means entitles partners to claim that the FCO endorses their product or services in any way.

Partners are expected not in any way to bring the campaign into disrepute and at the absolute discretion of the FCO partner status can be immediately withdrawn. In such instances the partner agrees to remove immediately all references to the KBYG campaign from its website and literature.

Being a partner in the campaign does not give rise to any payment from the FCO, except where the FCO decides to co-sponsor specific communications activities with particularly relevant partners, for example, the co-funding of a guide to travel safety produced by "Lonely Planet" books and distributed free to younger independent travellers.

Diplomatic Service: Dismissal

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many foreign diplomats were asked to leave their posts by the Government in each of the last 10 years; what the reasons were for the request; and from which countries' embassies each was expelled. [146121]

Dr. Howells: Information on the number of diplomats that have left their post as a result of a specific request by the Government could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, information held centrally indicates that, from the community of about 24,000 individuals entitled to diplomatic immunity, 28 foreign diplomats have been withdrawn from the UK in the last 10 years after some form of representation from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Details of the missions at which they served and the reasons for their withdrawals are as follows:

1997

Kuwait—alleged serious criminal offence (assault/domestic violence)

Belgium—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

1998

Morocco—alleged serious criminal offence (assault)

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

1999

Zimbabwe—alleged serious criminal offence (driving without insurance)

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

Italy—alleged serious criminal offence (shoplifting)

Romania—alleged serious criminal offence (shoplifting)

Other (disclosure of the details of this case may identify the individual)

2000

South Africa—alleged serious criminal offence (indecent assault)

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

Cameroon—alleged serious criminal offence (driving without a licence/insurance)

2001

Germany—alleged serious criminal offence (assault of a police officer)

France—alleged serious criminal offence (assault/actual bodily harm)

Belize—alleged serious criminal offence (assault/grievous bodily harm)

Mongolia—alleged serious criminal offence (cigarette smuggling)

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (possession of a class B drug with intent to supply)

2002

Germany—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

Russia—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

Ukraine—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

Morocco—alleged serious criminal offence (rape)

2003

Rwanda—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

2004

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (indecent assault)

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (indecent assault on a child)

2005

Saudi Arabia—alleged serious criminal offence (assault/domestic violence)

Angola—alleged serious criminal offence (drink driving)

2006

South Africa—alleged serious criminal offence (attempted robbery)

South Africa—alleged serious criminal offence (robbery).

European Union: Constitutions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his Polish counterpart during the recent conference in Brussels to discuss the new EU constitutional treaty. [146996]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the former Foreign Secretary had discussions with counterparts from a number of EU partners during the European Council in Brussels, including the Polish Foreign Minister.

European Union: Treaties

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish a White Paper when the new European Union treaty is available, setting out side by side what the original constitution said and what the new treaty proposes. [147179]

Dr. Howells: The Government will present to Parliament a White Paper setting out their approach to the Intergovernmental Conference.

The White Paper will set out in detail the changes to be introduced by the proposed "reform treaty". Once published, copies of the White Paper will be available in the Library of the House.

India: Demonstrations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on protests by Maoist rebels against the Indian Government in the districts of Bihar, Purlieu, Jharkhand and West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and what assessment he has made of the scale of those protests and numbers of fatalities. [146936]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in New Delhi and the deputy high commission in Kolkata regularly monitor the situation in respect of the Maoist (Naxal) protests in India.

We are concerned about continuing reports in the media of violence and fatalities, but this remains an internal matter for the Indian Government. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has described Naxalism as the 'single biggest' threat to the country's internal security.

Kashmir: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the United Kingdom will support the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir; and if she will make a statement. [146110]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned about all reports of human rights abuses in Kashmir, including allegations of violations perpetrated by the Indian security forces and militant groups. We have welcomed Indian commitments to investigate and curb violations and will continue to call for an improvement in the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Saudi Arabia: Foreign Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Saudi Arabian counterpart on the future of Anglo-Saudi relations. [147002]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the former Foreign Secretary met with His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal at the Lebanon Donor Conference in January and at the Iraq Compact Group in May. Their discussions concerned the continuing close UK/Saudi bilateral relationship, as well as other key regional issues.

Somalia: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of India on that country's role in peacekeeping in Somalia. [146860]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the former Foreign Secretary did not made any representations to the Government of India on that country's role in peacekeeping in Somalia.

Vietnam: Oppression

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the government of Vietnam on the persecution of Christians in that country, with particular reference to *(a)* Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan, *(b)* Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly and *(c)* the Hmong people; and if she will make a statement. [146501]

Dr. Howells: We, along with our EU partners have made numerous representations to the Vietnamese government on the arrest and sentencing of Lawyers Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan and Father Nguyen Van Ly.

Most recently, on 15 May, the EU issued a statement expressing its concern about the recent arrests and calling on the Vietnamese government to release all non-violent political activists who have exercised their rights to freedom of expression and association.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney), the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs raised human rights issues at a meeting with Vietnamese Vice Minister Le Cung Phung during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting on 14 and 15 March and again with the Vietnamese Ambassador on 10 May.

We continue to monitor the situation of ethnic minorities in Vietnam, including the Hmong people, through regular field missions. EU officials, including the UK, raise our concerns about religious freedoms and restrictions with the Vietnamese on a regular basis. Most recently during the EU/Vietnam human rights dialogue on 28 June.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146420]

Edward Miliband: The number of senior civil servants in the Cabinet Office awarded bonuses and the total cost of these bonuses, since the bonus pot was introduced in 2002, are as follows:

Year	*Number of bonuses*	*Total cost (£)*
2006	112	764,000
2005	112	507,500
2004	88	439,800
2003	77	360,500
2002	89	216,900

Bonuses were not awarded to senior civil servants prior to 2002.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Office in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146981]

Edward Miliband: The number of civil servants (including senior civil servants) in the Cabinet Office awarded end of year bonuses and the total cost of these bonuses over the past three years are as follows:

Year	*Number of staff*	*Total cost (£)*
2006	809	1,608,000
2005	867	1,402,000
2004	838	1,225,802

There is also a small number of staff receiving in-year bonuses. The total cost is not held centrally and would only be available at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on away days located outside his Department's buildings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [146863]

Edward Miliband: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system how much the Cabinet Office spent on away days located outside the Department's buildings. This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and other HM Treasury guidance.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much public expenditure was incurred by Directgov for paying to send staff to attend the Good Communication Awards on 30 May 2007 held at the Marriott Grosvenor Hotel, London. [146864]

Edward Miliband: Directgov were nominated for, and won, the Good Communications Mobile Technology Award 2007 and received a commendation for the Central Government Website of the Year Award. The only costs incurred by Directgov were for the purchase of two tickets for the awards at a cost of £50 per ticket (£100 in total).

Departments: Vacancies

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reason the vacancies published on the Government Communication Network public website will no longer be advertised to the public. [146866]

Edward Miliband: The Government Communication Network (GCN) website (www.comms.gov.uk) is now a password-protected site for Government communicators and other civil servants. The new GCN site has been made into a more practical and interactive resource to support the professional development of Government communicators.

All job vacancies which are open to the public are now advertised on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway and through other public media such as newspapers and specialist magazines.

Official Residences: Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office received from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for the official residence of the Deputy Prime Minister in Admiralty House *(a)* in total and *(b)* to cover the cost of (i) rent, (ii) security, (iii) utilities, (iv) facilities management and (v) general maintenance in 2006-07. [147196]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office received a total of £173,000 from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in 2006-07 in relation to the Deputy Prime Minister's official residence at Admiralty House.

The operation of Admiralty House is covered by a single facilities management contract which covers maintenance, renovation, security and running costs. It is not possible, within the overall total, to separately identify the costs that arise from the three flats in Admiralty House. However, for internal accounting purposes the Deputy Prime Minister's Office meets 20.7 per cent. of the costs of the operation of the entire building. This is calculated on the basis of the floor area of the flat as a proportion of the total floor area of Admiralty House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Freedom of Information

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what requests have been made to his Department under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000; and what the *(a)* FOI case reference number, *(b)* request summary, *(c)* request outcome and *(d)* reason for exemption was in each case where appropriate. [146843]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 1 January 2005, DFID has received 589 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests covering a very broad range of subjects. Each case is logged and given a reference number. DFID is committed to openness and transparency in accordance with the spirit of the FOI Act, and the presumption is always in favour of disclosure unless exemptions are found to apply. For example, in 2006, 80 per cent. of FOI requests received by DFID were answered in full without the withholding of any information. Only in 7 per cent. of cases was information fully withheld under permissible exemptions, often after consultation with other Government Departments such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

To provide a summary of each of the 589 requests, the request outcome, and any exemptions used could be done only at disproportionate cost. Summary statistical information on the outcomes of FOI requests and exemptions used are reported by DFID to the Ministry of Justice every quarter and can be accessed on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1013W, on armed forces: mass media, 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1665W, on service personnel: media and 8 May 2007, on detainees: Iran, and following the publication of the Fulton and Hall reports, whether he is now in a position to identify any instance of a second-hand account of military experiences being sold to the media by relatives of service personnel who have been refused permission to sell them directly. [145147]

Des Browne *[holding answer 27 June 2007]:* I have nothing further to add. It remains impossible for the MOD to determine whether relatives of service personnel have sold to the media second-hand accounts of their relative's military experiences. Any such transactions would be a private matter between the media organisation and the individuals concerned.

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contacts his Department has had with anti-corruption investigators from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in relation to defence orders with Saudi Arabia since January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [143092]

Des Browne: No one in the Department has had any contact with anti-corruption investigators from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in relation to defence orders with Saudi Arabia since January 2006.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been revisions of and amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the US Government European Command and the Ministry of Defence Police 1989; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [146742]

Des Browne *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* To date, there has been no revision or amendment to the 1989 memorandum of understanding between the US Government European Command and the Ministry of Defence police.

Negotiations are currently being held with the US authorities to review the policing and guarding services provided by the Ministry of Defence police.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Sanctions

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely impact of a boycott of Israeli universities and academics by British universities, colleges and academics, as proposed by the Universities and Colleges Union, upon Jewish students studying in Britain. [146236]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The Government fully support academic freedom and are firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics. The Government have demonstrated their clear commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity in higher education and more broadly in British society. Universities as independent, autonomous bodies are responsible themselves for complying with legislation and fulfilling their statutory duties. Under the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000) university governing bodies are also responsible for assessing the impact of their policies on student and staff of different racial groups.

Students: Complaints

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students have brought complaints to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator in each month since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [146398]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the latest available information on the number of student complaints handled by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator Scheme, since its inception in 2004.

Month	*Total per month*	*Cumulative total*
2004		
April	1	1
May	2	3
June	8	11
July	7	18
August	15	33
September	12	45
October	14	59
November	20	79
December	12	91
2005		
January	14	105
February	16	121
March	24	145
April	17	162
May	26	188
June	23	211
July	23	234
August	36	270
September	30	300
October	36	336
November	70	406
December	23	429
2006		
January	45	474
February	48	522
March	65	587
April	30	617
May	30	647

Month	Total per month	Cumulative total
June	39	686
July	28	714
August	33	747
September	32	779
October	38	817
November	32	849
December	42	891
2007		
January	73	964
February	61	1025
March	45	1070
April	38	1108
May	55	1163
June	42	1205

Source:
Office of the Independent Adjudicator

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Modernisation

21. **David Taylor:** To ask the Leader of the House when she will bring forward plans to modernise further the House of Commons. [146367]

Ms Harman: As I have indicated in my earlier response to the hon. Member for Cardiff, North (Julie Morgan) the Government are considering their response to the Modernisation Committee's recent report on "Revitalising the Chamber". We hope to bring forward specific proposals for the House's consideration as soon as reasonably possible. I remain open to representations on matters for reform.

Westminster Hall Debates

22. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will consider extending the amount of time allocated to Westminster Hall debates. [146368]

Ms Harman: I have no plans to do so. The present sitting times for Westminster Hall were set in January 2005 to complement the revised sitting hours agreed at the same time for the main Chamber.

Front-Bench Speeches

23. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effect on debates of the length of Front-Bench speeches. [146369]

Ms Harman: I have made no such specific assessment. As the hon. Member is aware, the issue of Front-Bench speaking times was discussed in the recent report of the Modernisation Committee on "Revitalising the Chamber: the role of the back bench Member". The Committee recommended the extension to Front-Bench speeches of the power to impose speaking limits, with certain safeguards.

European Legislation: Scrutiny

24. **Mr. Cash:** To ask the Leader of the House what steps she is taking to ensure effective scrutiny of European legislation; and if she will make a statement. [146370]

Ms Harman: The Government are considering possible measures for the reform of the scrutiny of European legislation and hopes to bring forward proposals in due course.

TRANSPORT

Fast Link Trains

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 June to Question 145649, on fast link trains, what the anticipated frequency is of the one hour and 25 minute fast trains from St. Pancras to Ramsgate; and on what date this service is likely to commence. [146654]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is anticipated that the fast services from St. Pancras to Ramsgate will operate on a one train per hour frequency during the main part of the day, seven days a week. These services are scheduled to be introduced from 13 December 2009.

M1: Castle Donington

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will examine the feasibility of bringing the hard shoulder into use as a carriageway on the M1 motorway in the vicinity of junction 24 during large-scale events likely to lead to congestion at Donington Park circuit at Castle Donington; and if she will make a statement. [146725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans to introduce hard shoulder running on the M1 motorway in the vicinity of Junction 24 at present.

The Highways Agency is currently evaluating an active traffic management pilot project on a heavily used length of the M42 south east of Birmingham, which includes hard shoulder running. This became fully operational in September 2006 but it is too early to draw definite conclusions at this point.

The Agency expects to produce an evaluation later this year and is continuing a thorough review of the strategic roads network to identify potential locations that might benefit.

The majority of major events at the Donington Park Circuit take place at weekends when traffic flows are lighter. The Highways Agency liaises regularly with the management of Donington Park to plan for events. The Agency has received no reports of any significant traffic problems for this length of the M1 when events are taking place.

M1: Nottingham

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how long the slip road at junction 25 of the M1 motorway towards Nottingham is likely to remain closed; what the reason is for the closure; and if she will make a statement. [146726]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The A52 slip road at Junction 25 of the M1 motorway is closed while the A52 Bardill's improvement scheme is under construction.

Forecasts from traffic flow figures show that if the slip road was left open there was a real risk of traffic forming queues from Bardill's roundabout back to Junction 25 and onto the M1 motorway. Therefore, for safety reasons, this slip road is to remain closed until the scheme is completed, which is scheduled for 11 August this year.

Motor Vehicles: Safety Measures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to require new cars sold in the UK to be fitted with electronic stability control. [146728]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As a member of the European Community we accept all cars constructed/approved to a scheme known as European Community whole vehicle type approval. Currently this does not include electronic stability control (ESC) and the UK could not mandate such fitment unilaterally. However, the Government appreciate the potential benefit of ESC and urges anyone buying a new car to give serious consideration to choosing one with ESC fitted.

It is anticipated that the European Commission will bring forward proposals for mandating ESC for cars, once a technical specification and a test method for ESC systems have been agreed. The UK is contributing to the development of both.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Services: Cambridge

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the deadline is for authorities to sign up to the proposed regional fire and rescue control centre to be located in Cambridge. [146651]

Hazel Blears: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 205W, to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell).

Ordnance Survey: Copyright

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring the Ordnance Survey to make licensable or copyright material available to schools and other public educational establishments free of charge; and if she will make a statement. [146016]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* In its role as the national mapping agency of Great Britain, Ordnance Survey places great importance on supporting education and learning at all levels, and in responding to its unique position as the only organisation whose products are specifically identified for study within the national curricula.

In addition to the well publicised "Free Maps for 11-Year-Olds" scheme, Ordnance Survey offers a wide range of other opportunities for schools and other public educational establishments to access its licensable and copyright material, much of it free of charge.

Under the "Free Maps for 11-Year-Olds" initiative Ordnance Survey has provided over 3.8 million OS explorer maps free to primary seven pupils in Scotland and year seven pupils in rest of Great Britain through their schools, with a further distribution planned for autumn 2007. All 11-year-old pupils are eligible regardless of the school they attend.

Ordnance Survey provides an educational copyright licence to any school, college or university wishing to copy Ordnance Survey paper mapping or use Ordnance Survey digital map data for educational, research or teaching purposes. The licence is available free to schools for students up to 16-years-old. In addition, individual students may obtain copies of extracts of in-copyright Ordnance Survey mapping from libraries under the terms of exceptions to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, for their private study, research, criticism or review purposes.

Digital map data are also freely available to LEA-funded schools from their parent local authority under the terms of the Local Authority Mapping Services Agreement. In order to ensure that LEA schools are technically able to access this data, Ordnance Survey has been working closely with the British Education Communications Technology Agency (Becta) to trial an on-line mechanism for the delivery of map data to schools and their suppliers. The 18 month 'MapPilot' project will report in summer 2008.

To further support the educational use of geographic information within schools Ordnance Survey operates a specialist on-line service within its web site. 'MapZone' is an award-winning free resource for school use, available 24 x 7 for teachers and pupils. It contains all the map reading skills required within the national curricula. The latest mapping is also available free of charge to schools and pupils (and the public) through the Ordnance Survey on-line 'Get-a-Map' service from which extracts may be downloaded or printed for a wide range of personal or learning uses.

Ordnance Survey supports teacher training by supplying all tutors of Post Graduate Certificate of Education geography courses across Great Britain with free OS Explorer and OS Landranger maps to aid with training of secondary school teachers. Through sponsorship arrangements with the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) and the teachers' professional body. The Geography Association (GA), Ordnance Survey also supports the provision of free geography teaching materials and teacher in service training (INSET).

Further and higher education needs are served through a collective purchasing agreement between Ordnance Survey and the Higher Education Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC). A basket of Ordnance Survey digital mapping products is available for use for teaching and non-commercial research use within higher and further education establishments—each establishment pays a single annual subscription for all agreed use by staff and students.

The value of providing further services for free is continually held under review. The Government published their response to an independent review by Ed Mayo and Tom Steinberg, "The Power of Information" on 25 June 2007. This made clear that Ordnance Survey will look very seriously at launching Open Space, a project which would allow non-commercial experimentation with mapping data.

JUSTICE

Community Legal Service: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the establishment of a Community Legal Services Strategy for Wales; and if he will make a statement. [147015]

Bridget Prentice: In December 2006, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) issued a joint consultation paper; Making Rights a Reality in Wales. The consultation closed on 2 March 2007 and the responses have all been analysed. A response to the consultation will be published in late summer.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146092]

Bridget Prentice: Officials throughout the Ministry of Justice are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in the European and International Division total six. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* courts service staff in Newcastle-upon-Tyne are in each of the five new area related paybands; and how many are at, or above, the top of the new area related payband scales. [146225]

Bridget Prentice: All staff employed by Ministry of Justice from the former DCA (including HMCS and Tribunals Service staff) who are based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne have been allocated to the same pay range (within the five available pay ranges).

302 members of staff are employed by HMCS and the Tribunals Service in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and of these, 13 are currently paid salaries at, or above, the top of the payband relevant to Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Of the 302, 216 members of staff are employed by HMCS, of whom four are paid at, or above, the top of the payband relevant to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

These arrangements do not apply to staff employed by the Home Office or its agencies prior who transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146424]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. The information provided relates to former DCA Senior Civil Service (SCS). It excludes those staff in the Tribunals Service and who joined former DCA on 1 April 2006 and those who joined the new Ministry from the Home Office for whom information is not currently available. As the SCS bonus scheme only came into being in 2002, information is provided from this point forward.

	Staff receiving bonuses	*Total amount awarded (£)*
Senior Civil Service bonuses received for staff on former DCA terms and conditions:		
2002	44	128,836
2003	43	170,557
2004	69	268,900
2005	105	537,687
2006	118	821,750

Electoral Register: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the measures put in place by Barnet council to ensure the electoral register for Grahame Park, Colindale is properly compiled; and if he will make a statement. [146786]

Bridget Prentice: The Department has not made an assessment of the measures put in place by Barnet council but I understand the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has been conducting a canvass of properties in Grahame Park, Colindale in an effort to maintain an accurate register and to raise registration levels.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 sets out the necessary steps that all EROs must take to maintain the register. These include sending the canvass form more than once to any address, conducting house to house enquiries and making contact by such means as appropriate.

It is for the ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with.

Home Detention Curfews

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted criminals were returned to prison for breaking home detention curfews in the last three years for which figures are available. [146061]

Mr. Hanson: The number of prisoners recalled for breaching their HDC conditions were 1,470 in 2003, 1,710 in 2004 and 1,722 in 2005, the latest year for which published figures are available.

These figures are taken from Table 10.7 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which is in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Magistrates: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of magistrates expected to be recruited for Welsh courts in financial year 2007-08. [146270]

Bridget Prentice: During the financial year 2007-08, it is expected that 82 magistrates will be recruited throughout Wales. This is based on predicted business need.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of magistrates expected to leave the magistracy in Wales in financial year 2007-08. [146271]

Bridget Prentice: During the financial year 2007-08, 50 magistrates are due to retire throughout Wales. An unknown number of magistrates may leave due to other reasons such as illness, transfer etc.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates are employed in courts in Wales. [146272]

Bridget Prentice: At the financial year ending 31 March 2007, there were 1,949 serving magistrates throughout Wales.

Prison Population: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are being held in (i) each prison and (ii) police cell accommodation in Wales; [146274]

(2) what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* useable operational capacity is of each prison in Wales as at 19 June 2007. [146275]

Mr. Hanson: The latest information available on prisoners held in accommodation in Wales, for the end of May 2007, is provided in the following table.

Establishment	*Male prisoners*	*Women prisoners*	*Totals*
Cardiff	753	0	753
Parc	1,136	0	1,136
Prescoed	162	0	162
Swansea	422	0	422
Usk	247	0	247
Total	2,720	0	2,720

The reported prison population also includes prisoners on authorised absence from the prison.

There are 28 places available in Wales under Operation Safeguard, which are used when there is a shortage of prison places. The use of Operation Safeguard in individual police force areas is held for use as management information only.

The latest information available on Operational Capacity, for the end of May 2007, is provided in the following table.

The maximum number of prisoners that an establishment can hold is the Operational Capacity. This is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by senior operational managers on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
Cardiff	754
Parc	1,126
Prescoed	178
Swansea	428
Usk	250
Total	2,736

Prisoners: Facilities

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what arrangements have been made for providing food to prisoners held in *(a)* court cells and *(b)* police cells since January 2006; [146055]

(2) what the *(a)* total cost of providing food and *(b)* the average cost per prisoner per meal has been for prisoners housed in (i) police cells and (ii) court cells since January 2006; [146058]

(3) what arrangements have been made for *(a)* drug assessments and *(b)* drug treatment and detoxification for prisoners housed in (i) police cells and (ii) court cells; and what the (A) total cost and (B) average cost per prisoner has been of providing these services since January 2006; [146059]

(4) what arrangements have been put in place to ensure that prisoners housed in *(a)* police cells and *(b)* court cells are (i) subject to necessary mental health and other medical assessments upon entry, (ii) adequately supervised throughout custody in such cells in accordance with the needs of any medical condition and (iii) provided with any necessary medical treatment; and what the cost has been of such arrangements since January 2006; [146060]

(5) what arrangements have been made to ensure that prisoners housed in *(a)* police cells and *(b)* court cells have adequate access to showers and other necessary hygiene facilities; and what has been the (i) total cost and (ii) average cost per prisoner per night of providing these services in such cells since January 2006. [146062]

Mr. Hanson: All efforts are being made to avoid vulnerable prisoners being held in police or court cells. Prisoners previously held in prison accommodation will have been assessed on their reception for drugs treatment, detox and wider health needs. Invoices, including medical and food expenses are submitted in arrears. The total cost of food and average cost per prisoner per meal is not centrally available. Estimated costs, on average, are around £385 per place per night to hold a prisoner in a police cell, and around £300 for every place in a court cell.

Under the terms of Operation Safeguard, police forces can be reimbursed by NOMS up to a ceiling of £12 for the costs of food for each prisoner over a 24-hour period.

Responsibility for the care and lawful custody of prisoners held in police accommodation rests with the police. Medical care afforded to Safeguard prisoners is in accordance with PACE Code C s9.

Prisoners have access to sanitary facilities within the custody area. Forces that provide cells under Operation Safeguard arrangements have shower facilities which are available for use. Every effort is made to ensure that prisoners are not held for more than one or two nights in succession.

Evening meals and breakfast are available for prisoners held overnight in court cells. For one contractor, figures for prisoners' food per night are around £15 per prisoner.

All prisoners held in court cells, whether or not previously held in custody, have a 'prisoner escort record' (PER) form, on which issues giving rise to concern are noted. Contractor staff and the on-site constables are able to take management action as appropriate, up to and including a hospital bed watch (where a minimum of two officers are to be present throughout the hospital stay). At each court a clinic is held each night by a qualified health care professional to identify and help address any health issues.

Prisoners have access to sanitary facilities within the custody area. Showers are not generally available, but other than in wholly exceptional circumstances prisoners are only held in court cells for one night.

Prisoners: Transport

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1727W, on prisoners: transport, what steps he is taking to ensure that prisoners are not detained in prisoner transport vehicles when awaiting or following court hearings. [146594]

Mr. Straw: The contractors responsible for the escort of prisoners are fully aware that vehicles are not to be used to hold prisoners either before or after their court appearance. The National Offender Management Service have to date received no reports of prisoners being held on vehicles because cells are not available in courts.

Prisoners: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2129W, on prisoners: young offender institutions, what the average *(a)* male and *(b)* female population was in young offender institutions in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [146153]

Mr. Hanson: The average male and female population in Young Offender Institutions in England and Wales in each year from 1997 to 2005 is shown in the following table:

Average population in young offender institutions[1], by gender

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
1997	7,556	278	7,834
1998	8,172	333	8,505
1999	8,012	332	8,344
2000	8,070	369	8,439
2001	8,175	390	8,565
2002	8,320	459	8,779
2003	8,025	399	8,424
2004	7,928	366	8,294
2005	7,883	360	8,243

[1] Includes under-18s held in YOIs

The figures have been taken from web table 8.10 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005. This can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section8.xls.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Separation: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce further mediation services for separating couples with children. [146343]

Bridget Prentice: We have established the Family Mediation helpline and supporting website; sponsored a public awareness campaign; and are facilitating judicial awareness seminars and supporting in-court referral schemes.

Provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court rules and court forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

Finally, the Legal Services Commission's revised Family Fee scheme will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation. Under the scheme, it will be in the interests of the solicitor to make a referral to mediation and to do so, at an earlier stage.

Therefore, the Government have no plans to introduce further mediation services but remain committed to encouraging greater use of existing provisions for family mediation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation controls the *(a)* ownership and *(b)* use of airguns; and if she will make a statement. [146482]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* There is a range of controls in the Firearms Act 1968 and related statutes controlling the possession and use of airguns. For example, a person must be aged 17 or over before they can buy an airgun or receive one as a gift. Anyone under 17 must normally be supervised by an adult when in possession of an airgun. It is an offence to carry an airgun in public without reasonable excuse. Other offences include possession with intent to injure, possession with intent to cause fear of violence and trespass with an airgun. Persons sentenced to three years imprisonment or longer for any offence are prohibited for life from possessing an airgun, and those sentenced to three months or more are prohibited for five years. High powered airguns are subject to certification and some are prohibited.

The Government are further strengthening the controls on airguns through measures contained in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. It will soon become an offence for businesses to sell airguns unless they register with the police as firearms dealers. To guard against under-age sales, transactions by dealers will have to be completed in person. The Act will also increase to 18, the age limit for buying and possessing an airgun and will make it an offence for anyone of any age to fire an airgun beyond the boundary of premises.

Antisocial Behaviour: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what antisocial behaviour initiatives her Department has funded in Blackpool since 1997. [146516]

Mr. McNulty: In 2005-06, Blackpool received £238,639 revenue and £54,453 Safer Stronger Communities Fund grant from the Home Office. This included £25,000 for a local antisocial behaviour co-ordinator, to prioritise and drive forward action on local issues.

Since 2006-07, Blackpool has received centrally pooled Safer Stronger Communities (SSC) funding from Communities and Local Government—£776,950 revenue and £1,027,031 capital in 2006-07; and £1,104,893 revenue and £1,199,033 capital in 2007-08. Through its Local Area Agreement, Blackpool has agreed to deliver a range of outcomes using this funding, including reductions in community perceptions of antisocial behaviour.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has said that, as a Respect Area, Blackpool has been allocated funding of up to £50,000 to appoint an expert parenting practitioner to work closely with antisocial behaviour teams, £125,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families for parenting interventions and an additional pump priming fund of £15,000 to cover costs related to delivering of parenting support training. A further £215,000 over two years has been allocated to Blackpool by the Respect Task Force to establish a Family Intervention Project.

Blackpool is also one of 20 Respect Areas which recently submitted proposals for 'Talking CCTV' as part of their wider campaign to tackle antisocial behaviour. Blackpool received £25,000 to set up and promote 'Talking CCTV'.

Asylum: Applications

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of claims for asylum were dealt with within the eight week target time period in each of the last 12 months. [126948]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the timeliness of initial decisions is published quarterly and annually. Information up to March 2007 will be available on 21 August 2007 in the quarterly publication. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Children

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were referred to Ministers for review of the continued detention of children on immigration grounds beyond 28 days in each of the last three years; and in how many of those cases was detention not extended beyond 28 days. [146166]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested on referrals is not centrally collated and could be provided only by examining individual cases at disproportionate cost.

Quarterly snapshots are published in the quarterly asylum bulletin, showing the number of people detained under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter. Statistics on the total number of persons leaving detention each quarter are also published in the quarterly asylum bulletin.

Published information on immigration and asylum is available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the section 9 pilot on removal of support to refused asylum seeker families was concluded; when the evaluation of the pilot was *(a)* conducted and *(b)* provided to Ministers; when she expects to publish the evaluation; and if she will make a statement. [146162]

Mr. Byrne: The section 9 implementation pilot concluded in December 2005.

The evaluation of the pilot was conducted between January 2006 and June 2007. Ministers were presented with the findings of the evaluation in June 2007.

A written ministerial statement was published on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 9WS.

The evaluation of the section 9 pilot is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people attending hearings before the Asylum Support Adjudicator were provided with overnight accommodation in each of the last three years. [146163]

Mr. Byrne: Management information records the following numbers of people provided with overnight accommodation to attend hearings before the Asylum Support Adjudicators (now the Asylum Support Tribunal): 521 in 2005; 661 in 2006; and 350 in 2007 (January to May).

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of complaints about poor accommodation provided under *(a)* section 95 and *(b)* section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have been (i) made, (ii) investigated and (iii) upheld since its introduction. [146164]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested in respect of complaints about s4 and s95 accommodation is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accommodation providers under section *(a)* 95 and *(b)* 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have been subjected to financial sanctions in each of the last three years. [146165]

Mr. Byrne: 25 regional accommodation contracts for s4 and s95 have had financial sanctions applied since the award of new contracts in April 2006.

Prior to the award of these new contracts financial sanctions were not applied. However, accommodation providers were expected to remedy any shortfalls identified or provide alternative accommodation.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the criteria for considering applications for asylum from Iraqi citizens differ from those applying to other countries. [146745]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The United Kingdom considers all asylum and human rights claims, including those from Iraqi nationals, on their individual merits in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) against the background of the latest available country information. How other countries handle asylum claims is a matter for those countries.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the reliability of automatic number plate recognition technology. [146483]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is a well-established technology that allows vehicles observed by camera to have their vehicle registration mark 'read' using pattern recognition software.

It is not possible to assess the reliability of ANPR technology as this information is not collated centrally. ANPR is operationally independent in each police force and is structured and maintained in a variety of ways. There is however, an established, collaborative working arrangement between police forces at the local, regional and national level that allows for the exchange of good practice.

Children: Romania

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Romanian National Agency for the Protection of Minors on unaccompanied Romany minors entering the United Kingdom. [146195]

Mr. McNulty: Discussions have been held at a number of levels with the Romanian authorities about accompanied and unaccompanied Roma children from Romania who have entered the United Kingdom. These discussions are continuing.

Community Policing: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was made available by her Department for neighbourhood policing initiatives in Blackpool in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2007. [146515]

Mr. McNulty: Before 2002-03, when the Home Office introduced funding specifically for police community support officers (PCSOs), the cost of funding any neighbourhood policing initiatives was met by police authorities from the general police grant and local resources. In November 2004, the Home Office launched the Neighbourhood Policing Fund and significantly increased investment in PCSOs and the wider aspects of neighbourhood policing. We have allocated the amounts shown in the following table to Lancashire constabulary. It is for the local police authority and the chief constable to determine the most appropriate distribution of resources to Blackpool and other parts of the force area.

Lancashire constabulary

	Specific funding for neighbourhood policing and police community support officers (£ million)
2002-03	0.7
2003-04	1.6
2004-05	1.7
2005-06	2.6
2006-07	5.8
2007-08	7.6

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to provide further funding to Blackpool as part of the town's award of Respect Area status. [146517]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has said that, in return for securing Respect Area status, Blackpool has been allocated £125,000 for 2007-08 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to help improve parenting programmes linked to tackling antisocial behaviour.

Convictions: Offensive Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been under the *(a)* Licensing Act 2003, *(b)* Knives Act 1997 and *(c)* Drugs Act 2005. [145989]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for offences under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Knives Act 1997 are shown in the following tables.

As offences of failing to attend drug assessments under the Drugs Act 2005 came into force late in 2005, there have been no offenders found guilty, up to the end of 2005. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Defendants found guilty of offences under the Knives Act 1997, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1, 2]

	Number
1997	1
1998	2
1999	—
2000	2
2001	—
2002	3
2003	—
2004	1
2005	1

Defendants found guilty of offences under the Licensing Act 2003, England and Wales, 2005[1, 2, 3]

	Number
2005	25

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The 2003 Licensing Act was not commenced until November 2005.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the cost has been to public funds of keeping dogs held by the Metropolitan Police Service under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; [145558]

(2) how many dogs are being held by the Metropolitan Police Service under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [145559]

Mr. McNulty: The number of dogs held by the Metropolitan Police Service under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the associated cost to public funds is an operational matter for the commissioner; such information is not collected by the Home Office.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of staff in her Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145683]

Mr. Byrne: The percentage of staff who were 60 years of age in each of the last three years is in the table.

The Criminal Record Bureau has been unable to provide data. The information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Figures are taken from the Home Office personnel system called ADELPHI for 31 March for each year. They cover permanent and casual employees but exclude agency staff and contractors.

It is possible that 31 March 2005 figure may be inflated by some staff whose employment status was in the process of being updated as data was transferred to ADELPHI from the preceding Home Office personnel system.

The information has been derived from the Personnel Corporate Database and Oracle HRMS. These systems are subject to the marginal inaccuracies associated with any large-scale reporting systems.

	April 2004 to March 2005 (2005)	April 2005 to March 2006 (2006)	Percentage April 2006 to March 2007 (2007)
Home Office and Border and Immigration Agency	4.19	2.03	2.3
HMPS	3.50	3.70	4.70
Identity and Passport Service	4.60	4.20	4.00

Domestic Service: Foreign Workers

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals her Department has made to change the rights to legal protection of domestic workers from overseas; and if she will make a statement. [125426]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 301W.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists in *(a)* the area of North Wales police and *(b)* England and Wales were wrongly identified as driving while uninsured as a result of information obtained from the Motor Insurers' Bureau Police Helpline in the last year for which figures are available. [146234]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Emergency Services: Radio

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has held on the implementation of tetra based trunk radio, with particular reference to the Airwave system; and if she will make a statement. [146577]

Mr. McNulty: Airwave—the national digital trunked radio communication system—will shortly complete its roll out in London, completing the UK roll out to all

forces. Airwave is also rolling out to fire and ambulance services. The service is managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency on behalf of the police service.

The Airwave contract is managed by the NPIA. The Minister has not held discussions on the implementation of Airwave or any other tetra based trunk radio communication system recently.

Entry Clearances: USA

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what grounds a refusal stamp for a visa application to live in the UK made by a US citizen can be removed from a person's passport. [144314]

Mr. Byrne: A visa refusal stamp cannot be removed from an applicant's passport. In the event of a successful appeal against refusal, were an administrative error to be made or a subsequent application approved, a visa vignette inserted into the passport would supersede the refusal stamp.

Fraud: Cheques

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate she has made of the incidence of *(a)* cheque and *(b)* plastic card fraud; [146767]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Attorney-General on the reporting of cheque and plastic card fraud; [146768]

(3) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on cheque and plastic card fraud; [146769]

(4) what discussions she has had with the Financial Services Authority on cheque and plastic card fraud; [146770]

(5) what requirements or obligations banks and credit institutions are subject to to ensure that complaints of cheque and plastic card fraud reported to them are provided to the police for investigation; [146771]

(6) if she will conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of new arrangements for reporting cheque and plastic card fraud; [146772]

(7) what steps she has taken to ensure that victims of cheque and plastic card fraud know to whom to report these crimes; [146773]

(8) what guidance she has given to police forces on the handling and recording of reports of cheque and plastic card fraud by members of the public. [146774]

Mr. McNulty: Cheque and plastic card fraud are not separately identifiable in Home Office crime statistics. For the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 there were 87,860 cases of cheque and plastic card fraud recorded by the police. Figures for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 will be released on 19 July 2007.

APACS (the UK Payment Association) records information on the financial losses resulting from plastic card fraud in the UK. The total losses reported by APACS in 2005 were £439.4 million.

Prior to 1 April 2007, Home Office officials consulted with the Attorney General's Fraud Review Steering Group on 30 March 2006, where a presentation on proposed changes to the reporting and recording of cheque and plastic card fraud offences was made.

The Fraud Review published on 24 July 2006 mentions proposed changes to the Home Office Counting Rules under paragraph 2.17 and states

"Changes to the counting rules centre on rationalising responsibility for recording the crime and using statistics collated by APACS to supplement crime statistics".

Under paragraph 2.18 it states

"These changes to the fraud statistics, following on from the Fraud Bill, are welcome".

Home Office officials have not held any direct discussions with Trade and Industry officials on changes to the reporting and recording of cheque and plastic card offences introduced on 1 April 2007.

Prior to 1 April 2007, Home Office officials have discussed changes to the reporting of cheque and plastic card offences with APACS (UK Payments Association), ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and Attorney General's Office officials.

Home Office officials are integral members of the Economic Crime Portfolio Group which is chaired by the commissioner of the city of London police. The Commissioner is also the ACPO lead on all fraud matters. Home Office officials have made presentations to the group and kept them updated on the changes to reporting and recording of cheque and plastic card fraud by police introduced on 1 April 2007. The FSA are also represented at the ECP meetings, together with a range of other stakeholders in fraud.

From 1 April 2007 each police force now has a single point of contact (SPOC) that has been set up to receive reports of cheque and plastic card crime direct from financial institutions. It is a matter for the financial institutions which crimes they decide to refer to the police for recording. It is then a matter for individual chief officers to decide which crimes will be investigated.

The Home Office has been making greater use of APACS (UK Payments Association) figures to provide a better indication of the extent and trends in cheque and plastic card fraud.

Home Office officials will remain engaged with the UK Payments Association (APACS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers to continually assess the effectiveness of new arrangements for reporting and recording of cheque and plastic card fraud introduced on 1 April 2007.

Financial institutions now have a network of single points of contact within each police force where they can report cheque and plastic card fraud. Guidance issued to both police and financial institutions and contained within the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, (which is a public document available online at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html) states the following:

The financial institution wishing to report fraud will give the case or cases to the force area based on the following set of principles. The principles are listed in order of priority and it is only when a principle cannot be achieved or is not known that the next principle will apply:

1st—The police force area covering the location of the fraudulent operation.

2nd—The police force area with the greatest number of individual usages.

3rd—The police force area where the first offence was committed.

4th—The police force area where the victim is located.

The Rules make it clear that where the trader or account holder is the victim (i.e. they suffer the financial loss) they can report this to the police who have to record this as a crime and not refer them back to the financial institution. It is then a matter for the police to decide which force is responsible for recording this matter as a crime based on the above criteria.

Where an account holder does contact the police to report this matter without having first spoken to their financial institution, a crime related incident will be recorded and the account holder will be referred to their financial institution.

APACS put out a press release to this effect on 30 March 2007.

A series of questions and answers for all police staff was circulated to all police forces in January 2007 on the changes to the reporting and recording arrangements for cheque and plastic card fraud offences. This additionally appeared in Police Review on 19 January 2007 as a two page article.

In addition the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime contain more extensive details. This is a publicly available document available on the Home office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html.

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and individual forces have been fully consulted on these proposed changes throughout the course of 2006-07 through the National Crime Recording Steering Group and also its fraud sub-group.

Fullbright Fellowship in Police Studies Scheme

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1958W, on the Fullbright Fellowship in Police Studies scheme, what further steps she is taking to promote and enhance the skills of police officers and police staff in co-operation with other countries. [146487]

Mr. McNulty: The Fulbright Fellowship is one of six programmes which the NPIA is responsible for that helps to promote and enhance the skills of police officers and staff. Additional programmes include an exchange with the John Jay College in New York, the French Gendarmerie Exchange in Paris, the Hong Kong Police, the Chevening Scholarships and the Australian Institute of Police Management.

NPIA also hosts the European Police College (CEPOL) which has been developing a common curriculum for key areas of European policing. CEPOL provides around 100 training programmes across Europe which UK officers are encouraged through NPIA to access.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1958W, on the Fullbright Fellowship in Police Studies scheme, when she expects the National Policing Improvements Agency to ensure that a mechanism is put in place to assess the effectiveness of the scheme for both police officers and police staff. [146488]

Mr. McNulty: Policy and practice in respect of the Fulbright Programme is now a matter for the NPIA. I understand from the NPIA chief executive that he will be arranging a meeting shortly with the executive director of the Fulbright Fellowship to discuss how the programme is operating and to help maximise its use among police officers and police staff.

Homicide: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences recorded as homicide by sharp instrument were recorded by Wiltshire Constabulary in each year from 1997-98 to 2005-06. [147090]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument'[2]: Wiltshire police 1997-98 to 2005-06

Year offence initially recorded[3]	*Number*
1997-98	2
1998-99	0
1999-2000	1
2000-01	0
2001-02	3
2002-03	2
2003-04	2
2004-05	3
2005-06	1

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Homicides involving any sharp instrument, including knives.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the accuracy of information provided by the Motor Insurers' Bureau Police Helpline. [146233]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The helpline has been in service since April. Its accuracy is the responsibility of the Motor Insurers' Bureau. The police make extensive use of insurance data made available through the bureau to tackle the serious problem of uninsured driving. The latest figures, to mid June, indicate that 94.4 per cent. of all appropriate records are provided to the Motor Insurance Database (MID) within seven days. This is in line with a target of 95 per cent. of all appropriate records being provided within seven days by 1 January 2008.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelan activists in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [146130]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) is listed as proscribed as a terrorist organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000. It is a criminal offence for a person to belong to or encourage support for the LTTE in the UK. It is also a criminal offence to arrange a meeting in support of it or to wear clothing or to carry articles in public which arouse reasonable suspicion that a person is a member or supporter. The arrest and prosecution of offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service respectively.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on recent arrests of the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelan activists under counter terrorism legislation. [146131]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The arrest and prosecution of offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 is a matter for the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service respectively. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on such matters.

MI5: Official Secrets

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will declassify MI5 file series PF600, 439 to 610 and 109. [146788]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The Security Service transfers records to the National Archive for public access in accordance both with the selection criteria recommended by the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records and with the Public Record Act 1958.

Some records in the Service's Personal File (PF) series have already been transferred to the National Archive. Those that remain will be considered in due course.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer Question 115828, on indefinite leave to remain, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 10 January 2007. [117678]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 27 June 2007, *Official Report* column 769W.

Police: Horses

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost was in the last three years of each mounted police section. [146683]

Mr. McNulty: The Government allocate funding to police authorities. The allocation of resources within each force is a matter for the chief officer and the police authority. We do not hold information centrally on resources for mounted police sections.

Police: Protective Clothing

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2078W, on Police: protective clothing, what guidelines her Department issues to chief officers of police on the selection, purchase and issue of body armour for on-duty police officers. [146105]

Mr. McNulty: Decisions about the selection, purchase and issue of body armour are for chief officers of police. All officers should have access to a range of body armour, either on an individual or shared basis, dependant on their role. In reaching decisions about what protective equipment to issue, chief officers have the benefit of expert advice provided by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) and the standards they produce. Body armour supplied to the vast majority of police officers in the UK now offers a dual protection level of knife and ballistic resistance as detailed in the HOSDB Standard.

Police: Safety Measures

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what risk assessment she has commissioned on the health and safety of police officers during a *(a)* chemical, *(b)* biological, *(c)* radiological and *(d)* nuclear incident. [146627]

Mr. McNulty: Such risk assessments are an operational matter for the police and are not commissioned by the Home Office.

Police: Stun Guns

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed due to the firing of a stun gun by the police since April 2003; and during what type of operations. [146553]

Mr. McNulty: There have been no deaths in the UK directly attributable to police use of Taser. There have been no injuries directly attributable to police use of Taser beyond the expected injury caused by Taser barbs penetrating or puncturing the skin on impact.

Independent medical advice from the Defence Scientific Advisory Council's Sub-Committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons (DOMILL) examine all the available medical reports where Taser has been used and are content that the medical issues attributable directly or indirectly to Taser use are not unexpected and are addressed by their statements to Ministers. DOMILL has issued three statements on the medical implications of the use of the Taser. Its view is that the risk of death from primary injury with high power laser is low and certainly very much lower than that from conventional firearms.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Taser stun guns have been used by each police force since April 2003; and in what type of operation they were used. [146559]

Mr. McNulty: Taser is currently available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms. Taser is deployed alongside conventional weapons providing the police with an additional tactical option that is less lethal than conventional firearms.

Information on the occasions when Taser has been used is set out in the following tables.

Since April 2003, there have been 619 incidents at which the device has been used operationally. This can be broken down as follows:

Uses of laser (at 31 December 2006, England and Wales)

	Number
Drawn/aimed/application of projected red-dot	326
Arced as a demonstration/warning	28
Applied in drive-stun (direct contact)	26
Fired (barb deployment)	239

Use of laser by police force area (at 31 December 2006, England and Wales)

Force	Drawn/ aimed/ red-dot	Arced	Drive stunned	Fired	Total incidents when Taser used
Avon and Somerset	1	1	0	3	5
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	1	5
Cheshire	2	1	0	3	6
City of London	1	0	0	0	1
Cleveland	7	0	0	10	17
Cumbria	4	2	0	0	6
Derbyshire	8	0	0	2	10
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	2	2
Dorset	17	2	2	8	29
Durham	18	0	0	12	30
Essex	4	0	1	4	9
Gloucester	6	0	0	2	8
Greater Manchester	2	0	1	6	9
Guernsey	0	0	0	1	1
Gwent	2	0	0	2	4
Hampshire	0	0	0	8	8
Hertfordshire	2	0	1	0	3
Humberside	14	3	0	1	18
Lancashire	9	0	0	4	13
Leicestershire	0	2	0	0	2
Lincolnshire[1]	11	3	1	6	21
Kent	0	0	0	1	1
Merseyside	15	1	1	1	18
Metropolitan[1]	59	4	13	76	152
Norfolk	1	0	1	2	4
North Wales[1]	32	2	1	12	47
Northants[1]	7	0	0	5	12
Northumbria	33	0	0	3	36
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	2	2
South Wales	0	0	0	1	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	1
Staffordshire	6	1	0	2	9
Strathclyde	5	0	0	4	9
Suffolk	0	0	0	5	5
Surrey	0	1	0	0	1
Sussex	1	0	0	3	4
Thames Valley[1]	5	0	0	5	10
West Mercia	8	0	0	5	13
West Midlands	10	0	1	13	24
West Yorkshire	32	5	3	20	60
Wiltshire	0	0	0	2	2
Total	326	28	26	239	619

[1] Denotes original trial force (including data from April 2003).

Note:
Only the highest level of "use" during each incident is recorded (multiple uses during the same incident are only recorded once on this table).

Police: Yorkshire and Humberside

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes were reported to the police, *(b)* police officers were deployed and *(c)* police support staff were deployed in each of the police areas in North Yorkshire in 2006. [146757]

Mr. McNulty: The available information relates to the number of offences recorded in each Basic Command Unit in North Yorkshire in 2005-06 and is given in the following table.

Information on the number of officers deployed is not available centrally.

Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire, 2005-06

Basic Command Unit	Number of offences
North Yorkshire Central	28,941
North Yorkshire Eastern	16,740
North Yorkshire Western	13,388
Total	59,069

Theft: Bicycles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bicycle thefts were recorded in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* London in each of the last five years. [146973]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the following table. The data relate to offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police in the London Region and in England and Wales as a whole. Statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are a matter for the respective Secretaries of State.

Offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police

	Number of offences				
	2001-02	*[1]2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
London Region [2]	14,674	16,239	19,616	19,636	21,574
England and Wales	102,713	97,755	105,467	106,064	113,206

[1] British Transport police data has been included in the England and Wales totals from 2002-03.
[2] includes the Metropolitan police and the City of London.

Work Permits

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007 to question 144097, on work permits, how many work permits in total were issued in each year since 2000 for overseas nationals from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia, *(c)* South America and *(d)* the Caribbean. [146240]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals, in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 May 2007 from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia *(c)* South America and *(d)* the Caribbean.

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[1]*
Africa	13,430	22,370	27,770	25,520	24,915	20,910	18,290	6,305
Asia	38,340	56,165	66,285	75,825	93,865	81,330	89,340	36,085
South America	1,480	1,925	2,640	2,755	3,400	3,455	4,025	1,910
Caribbean	2,240	2,830	2,885	2,900	2,690	2,625	2,480	905

[1] January to May
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Questions

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects to reply to Question *(a)* 125557 and *(b)* 125547, tabled on 1 March 2007, on English classes for asylum seekers; [131001]

(2) when she expects to answer Questions *(a)* 125547 and *(b)* 125557, on English classes for asylum seekers, tabled by the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington for answer on 5 March 2007. [133227]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member as follows: *(a)* 125557 on 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 758W and *(b)* 125547 on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1943W.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 125719 on the IPPR tabled by the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire on 1 May 2007 for answer on 5 May. [142391]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 27 June, *Official Report*, column 759W.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to make a substantive reply to Question *(a)* 138530 and *(b)* 138531, on asylum cases, tabled by the hon. Member for Aylesb[illegible] on 16 May for named day answer on 23 May. [145601]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 757W.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* the north east, broken down by local authority area and *(b)* the UK, broken down by (i) region and (ii) country, in (A) 2004, (B) 2005 and (C) 2006; and what the death rate per head of population from alcohol-related causes was in each case. [146224]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 2 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* the north east, broken down by local authority area and *(b)* the UK, broken down by (i) region and (ii) country, in (A) 2004, (B) 2005 and (C) 2006; and what the death rate per head of population from alcohol-related causes was in each case. I am replying in her absence. (146224)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause, with the corresponding age-standardised mortality rate[1], for *(a)* the north east, by local authority, and *(b)* the UK, by (i) region and (ii) country, for 2004 and 2005 (the latest year available).

[1] Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of d[illegible]h[1], and corresponding age-standardised mortality rates[2], UK and constituent countries[3], Government Office Regions, and local authorities in the North East Government Office Region[4], 2004 and 2005[5]

	Deaths (persons), rate per 100,000 population			
	2004		*2005*	
	Number	*Rate*	*Number*	*Rate*
UK	8,221	12.8	8,386	12.9
England	6,036	11.2	6,191	11.4
Wales	416	12.8	407	12.1
Scotland	1,478	26.4	1,513	26.7
Northern Ireland	255	15.4	246	14.6
Government Office Regions				
North East	426	15.5	402	14.5
North West	1,166	16.0	1,173	16.1
Yorkshire and The Number	615	11.4	643	11.7
East Midlands	482	10.2	506	10.5
West Midlands	743	13.0	776	13.6
East of England	485	7.7	492	7.9
London	758	11.4	744	11.1

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], and corresponding age-standardised mortality rates[2], UK and constituent countries[3], Government Office Regions, and local authorities in the North East Government Office Region[4], 2004 and 2005[5]

	Deaths (persons), rate per 100,000 population			
	2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
South East	832	9.2	874	9.5
South West	529	8.9	581	9.8
Local authorities				
Darlington UA	19	18.6	13	11.8
Hartlepool UA	18	18.6	15	14.8
Middlesbrough UA	25	18.1	20	14.6
Redcar and Cleveland UA	18	10.7	22	15.0
Stockton-on-Tees UA	22	11.1	28	14.2
Chester-le-Street	8	*	6	*
Derwentside	13	14.4	19	19.1
Durham	7	*	14	14.2
Easington	19	20.9	24	23.1
Sedgefield	9	*	6	*
Teesdale	1	*	2	*
Wear Valley	3	*	5	*
Alnwick	4	*	3	*
Berwick-upon-Tweed	4	*	3	*
Blyth Valley	16	18.2	11	11.4
Castle Morpeth	6	*	5	*
Tynedale	4	*	3	*
Wansbeck	9	*	7	*
Gateshead	38	18.0	37	17.2
Newcastle upon Tyne	70	28.0	55	21.6
North Tyneside	44	21.0	36	17.5
South Tyneside	32	19.2	22	13.0
Sunderland	37	12.4	46	15.3

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.

[2] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population.
Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages. To avoid reporting potentially misleading results, rates have not been calculated for areas with less than 10 deaths (marked with an asterisk*).

[3] Figures for the UK include deaths of non-residents, whereas figures for sub-national areas exclude non-residents. Therefore, the number of deaths reported in the UK is greater than the sum of the numbers in its constituent areas.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Defence: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to paragraph 5.32 of Consolidated Budgeting Guidance 2007-08, what *(a)* arrangements for the control of non-cash to near-cash switches and *(b)* definition of near cash he has agreed with the Ministry of Defence. [145205]

Andy Burnham: As set out in the 2007-08 Consolidated Budgeting Guidance paragraphs 5.14-5.20 the Treasury will allow switches between non-cash to near cash to incentivise greater management of departmental asset bases. In light of the size of MOD'S asset base and the potential fiscal implications of such switches, HM Treasury has agreed with MOD an upper limit for non-cash to near cash switches. These switches are reflected through the parliamentary supply estimates process.

The MOD's definition of near cash resource is identical to that of other Government Departments, with the exception of the treatment of non-nuclear provisions, which sit outside the MOD's departmental expenditure limits.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146326]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's spending on consultancy is published in table 7.4 on page 91 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, available from

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/2/annua_report07.pdf.

Since 2002-03, there have been no consultancy contracts with a value over £10 million. Information going back to the date of establishment of the Treasury could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* corporate charge and *(b)* corporate credit cards were lost in each year since 2001-02 in his Department; [147103]

(2) how many *(a)* corporate charge and *(b)* corporate credit cards have not been recorded as returned to his Department by staff who have left; [147104]

(3) what estimate he has made of the value of fraudulent transactions on his Department's *(a)* corporate charge and *(b)* corporate credit cards in each financial year since 2001-02; [147105]

(4) what the value is of *(a)* corporate charge and *(b)* corporate credit card outgoings in 2006-07 for which claim forms have not yet been received from staff; [147111]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1496W, on Departments: credit cards, how much was spent via corporate charge cards by staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [147112]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury issues cards for the purchase of official travel and subsistence services. Total spending on these cards in the past four years was:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	182,075.04
2004-05	222,274.69
2005-06	273,722.74
2006-07	229,042.29

Information on late claims, stolen and lost cards is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146977]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1881W. All bonuses paid are non-pensionable.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146927]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's relative appraisal system does not include an "unacceptable" ranking. Poor performance is dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the line manager of the individual concerned.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance for each financial year since 1999-2000. [146528]

Andy Burnham: The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance is only reissued when there have been changes to the budgetary framework, so copies do not exist for every financial year. I have arranged for copies of all existing versions of the guidance to be placed in the Library.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1498W, on Departments: recruitment, what payments have been made from the public purse to each of these recruitment agencies since 1997. [147102]

Angela Eagle: For total spending on temporary staff, supplied by those agencies, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1985W. The amounts paid to each agency since 1997 (including recruitment fees) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sick Leave

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [146562]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 754W.

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what change there has been in *(a)* the proportion of immigrants arriving in the UK from the European Union since 1 May 2003 and *(b)* the countries of origin of those immigrants. [146104]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 2 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning (a) the proportion of immigrants arriving from the European Union since 1st May 2003 and (b) the countries of origin of those immigrants. I am replying in her absence. (146104)

The requested information is only available for calendar years by country of last residence. The latest figures are for 2005.

Estimates for the European Union as a whole are routinely published based on Total International Migration, the most comprehensive measure of international migration into the UK. Figures requested are given in Table 1. Estimates by individual EU country of last residence are only available using International Passenger Survey (IPS) data. These figures are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Total international migration[1] to the UK by country of last residence[2], 2003 to 2005: United Kingdom

Thousands

	All countries	*European Union 15[3]*		*European Union A8[3]*		*European Union 25[3]*		*Non-EU[4]*	
		Estimate	*Percentage of all migrants*	*Estimate*	*Percentage of all migrants*	*Estimate*	*Percentage of all migrants*	*Estimate*	*Percentage of total*
Inflow									
2003	513	101	20	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	411	80
2004	582	83	14	53	9	139	24	443	76
2005	565	95	17	81	14	180	32	385	68

[1] Estimates of total international migration (TIM) are compiled using the following sources of migration data: International Passenger Survey (IPS) data on migrants and visitors; Home Office data on asylum seekers and their dependants; and estimates of migration between the UK and the Irish Republic from the Irish Central Statistics Office. An international migrant is defined as someone who changes their country of residence for at least a year so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.
[2] Estimates by country of last residence can include migrants of any citizenship. Therefore British citizens previously resident in another EU country and returning to the UK will be included in these estimates.
[3] For 2003, EU estimates are shown only for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). From 2004, the estimates are also shown for A8 (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the EU25 (i.e. the EU15 and A8 groups, plus Malta and Cyprus). These splits are necessary because TIM estimates are not available for the post accession groupings before 2004.
[4] For 2003, non-EU includes all the countries that acceded to the EU on 1 May 2004.
[5] Not applicable.
Source:
International Migration MN No.32, 2005, Table 2.2

Table 2: migration to the UK from the EU by country of last residence[1], 2003 to 2005 (IPS only[2]): United Kingdom

Thousands

Country of last residence	*2003[3]*	*2004[3]*	*2005[3]*
France	27	15	13
Germany	15	16	27
Spain	15	13	14
Poland	[4]—	17	52
Other EU	35	66	54
Total EU[3]	92	127	159

[1] Estimates by country of last residence can include migrants of any citizenship. In particular, British citizens previously resident in another EU country and returning to the UK will be included in these estimates.
[2] The International Passenger Survey (IPS) excludes most asylum seekers, flows between the UK and the Irish Republic, and adjustments for 'switchers' (i.e. people whose migration intentions are not realised).
[3] For 2003, total EU figures are for EU15 and for 2004 and 2005 are for EU25.
[4] Not applicable
Source:
International Passenger Survey

Landfill Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised by the landfill tax in each of the last 10 years for which records exist; and how much was *(a)* allocated in grants and *(b)* disbursed. [146699]

Angela Eagle: Annual UK landfill tax receipts for 1997-98 to 2005-06, and a provisional figure for 2006-07 are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=Bulletins

in the landfill tax bulletin.

Initially, landfill tax revenues were used to fund a 0.2 percentage point reduction in the main rate of employers' national insurance contributions. Since 2005, the Government have recycled landfill tax escalator revenues to business and local government. In England, the business resources efficiency and waste (BREW) programme is worth £284 million over three years. In addition, the Government take account of the impacts of landfill tax when allocating local government funding. In the 2004 spending review (which takes us through to 2007-08) the revenues from the landfill tax escalator were recycled back to local councils via revenue support grant. Decisions for the future will be taken in the context of this year's comprehensive spending review.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue collected under the landfill tax was *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to local authorities in each of the last 10 years for which records exist. [146701]

Angela Eagle: The Government takes account of the impacts of landfill tax when allocating local government funding. In the 2004 Spending Review (which takes us through to 2007-08) the revenues from the landfill tax escalator were recycled back to local councils via Revenue Support Grant. Decisions for the future will be taken in the context of this year's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The net current expenditure on waste collection and disposal by local authorities in each year for which figures are available since 1997 is shown in the following table (source: local authority Revenue Outturn returns).

	Net current expenditure on waste collection and disposal (£000)
1998-99	1,281,919
1999-2000	1,423,278
2000-01	1,521,338
2001-02	1,653,856
2002-03	1,806,684
2003-04	2,004,139
2004-05	2,190,937
2005-06	2,442,267

Local Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the number of unitary authority proposals implemented on the basis of the local government review; [146485]

(2) whether his officials have assessed the costings put forward in the unitary council bids under review by the Department for Communities and Local Government. [146472]

Angela Eagle: All 16 unitary proposals that were subject to stakeholder consultation will be reassessed against the five criteria set out when local authorities were originally invited to submit their proposals in October 2006, having regard to all the information available including that received in response to the consultation. Decisions as to which proposals will proceed towards implementation will reflect the collective decision of Government.

National Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the share was of *(a)* wages and *(b)* profits of national income in each year since 1979. [146780]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 2 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting the share of *(a)* wages and *(b)* profits of national income, in each year since 1979. I am replying in her absence. (146780)

Please see table A, which provides the latest figures for wages and salaries and the gross trading profits of the corporate sector and their share as a percentage of gross national income for all years since 1979.

Table A

	GNI at market prices	*Wages and Salaries*	*Gross trading profits of corporate sector*	*Wages and salaries as a % of GNI*	*Gross trading profits as a % of GNI*
1979	196,181	100,607	40,595	51.28	20.69
1980	228,055	119,267	40,943	52.30	17.95
1981	250,912	128,152	43,173	51.07	17.21
1982	274,261	136,614	49,874	49.81	18.18
1983	301,840	146,220	59,811	48.44	19.82
1984	324,597	156,753	63,320	48.29	19.51
1985	352,563	171,126	70,405	48.54	19.97
1986	381,383	184,703	69,788	48.43	18.30
1987	418,585	199,932	82,777	47.76	19.78
1988	468,351	223,673	93,475	47.76	19.96
1989	512,116	250,198	99,658	48.86	19.46
1990	552,770	276,633	99,085	50.04	17.93
1991	582,920	293,009	90,964	50.27	15.60
1992	610,651	302,890	92,809	49.60	15.20
1993	640,799	310,513	107,985	48.46	16.85
1994	684,352	321,850	126,210	47.03	18.44
1995	720,317	336,586	135,535	46.73	18.82
1996	766,606	351,229	149,538	45.82	19.51
1997	816,484	374,427	157,741	45.86	19.32
1998	874,620	406,558	154,664	46.48	17.68
1999	910,115	431,594	156,753	47.42	17.22
2000	959,708	462,355	155,821	48.18	16,24
2001	1,011,623	490,978	151,665	48.53	14.99
2002	1,076,865	508,614	171,637	47.23	15.94
2003	1,140,887	527,630	190,069	46.25	16.66
2004	1,209,844	550,583	209,799	45.51	17.34
2005	1,258,722	578,862	209,269	45.99	16.63
2006	1,316,956	606,560	221,543	46.06	16.82

These figures are based on data published on 29 June 2007.

Navy: Military Bases

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on his commitment to move civil service jobs out of the South East, with particular reference to the Naval Base Review. [147016]

Andy Burnham: The Chancellor regularly has meetings and discussions with Cabinet colleagues including the Secretary of State for Defence, and discusses a wide range of issues. As was the practice of previous Administrations, the Government do not disclose details of all such discussions.

Olympic Games

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contribution his Department's *(a)* devolved countries and regions team and *(b)* education, training and culture team made to discussions on the proposed logo for the 2012 Olympics before its approval. [146953]

Angela Eagle: The development and approval of the brand was the responsibility of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Public Sector: Standards

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list all the current public service agreement targets. [146807]

Angela Eagle: I refer my right hon. Friend to the command paper '2004 Spending Review: Public Service Agreements 2005-2008' (Cm 6238) which lists the public service agreements and targets for the current spending period.

The HM Treasury public spending performance website also includes links to the technical notes for each PSA:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_reporting/public_service_performance/psr_performance_efficiency_supporting_documents.cfm.

Transport: Expenditure

Graham Stringer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the overall annual level of public expenditure on transport per head of population was in *(a)* each of the English regions, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* London in each of the last five years. [146465]

Andy Burnham: Information on total identifiable expenditure per capita on transport for each region and country of the UK is set out in Table 9.11 of HM Treasury's publication, 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007 (Cm7091)', published in May 2007. This provides outturn data from 2001-02 to 2005-06 and planned expenditure for 2006-07.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on local authorities seeking unitary status which appeared on the shortlist published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 27 March 2006. [146486]

Angela Eagle: The decision as to which proposals should proceed to stakeholder consultation reflected the collective decision of Government.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Working Carers

13. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assess the levels of support available for working carers. [146357]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government fully recognise the vital role which all carers undertake. Through our National Carer's Strategy, we have made substantial improvements in the support we give to carers, both financial and practical, and we are continually looking at ways to further improve the support available.

Unemployment Trends

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of trends in levels of unemployment since the end of 1997. [146359]

Mr. Hain: As a result of our stable economy and successful labour market policies, unemployment is down and employment is up compared to 10 years ago.

Since 1997 claimant unemployment has fallen by 739,000; in the last year it has fallen by 71,500; and in the last month it has fallen by 9,300—a continuing trend of success.

Worklessness: London

15. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to tackle worklessness in London. [146360]

Mr. Plaskitt: The numbers of people on out of work benefits in London has fallen by over 125,000 since 1997, and continues to fall. However, London poses one of our biggest challenges in achieving our long-term aim of an 80 per cent. employment rate.

Initiatives like the City Strategy, the Deprived Areas Fund and higher levels of financial support in London now available through the lone parent In-Work Credit, will help us in supporting more Londoners back to work.

Inactive Benefits

16. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving inactive benefits; and if he will make a statement. [146361]

Caroline Flint: Latest figures indicate that around 3.7 million people are in receipt of inactive benefits and that at 21.3 per cent. the economic inactivity rate is close to its lowest since 1992.

Since 1997, the number of lone parents claiming benefits has fallen by 238,000 and new claims for incapacity benefits are down by a third. The number of people on incapacity benefits is at the lowest level in over seven years.

We are determined to build on this success, and the measures set out in our Welfare Reform Act will help us to do that.

Employers' Contributions

17. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to enforce the automatic enrolment of employers and making appropriate contributions by employers in respect of personal accounts; and if he will make a statement. [146362]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government propose a three-stage compliance strategy. We will educate employers and employees about their new rights and responsibilities. We will engage with employers, enabling them to comply. Where necessary, we will take proportionate enforcement action, through a graduated approach with increasing penalties.

We are continuing to work with the relevant stakeholders in developing our enforcement strategy further.

Youth Unemployment

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on youth unemployment. [146355]

Mr. Hain: Since 1997, unemployment for 18 to 24-year-olds has fallen by 35 per cent. and long-term youth unemployment has fallen by 70 per cent.

This success has been made possible by active labour market policies, such as the New Deal for Young People, combined with unprecedented stability and growth in the economy.

Disability Benefits

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has introduced to reduce complexity in the assessment process for disability benefits. [146356]

Mrs. McGuire: We are aware of the importance of making the benefits system as easy and straightforward as possible for disabled people to use.

The introduction of the new Employment and Support Allowance will make the system easier for people to understand and will smooth the administration process.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what target will be set for the time taken to secure an assessment under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146141]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Secretary of State will set high level performance targets for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what restrictions there will be on *(a)* deduction orders and *(b)* lump sum deduction orders under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [146144]

Mr. Plaskitt: Deduction orders will only be used if a person has failed to pay their statutory maintenance liabilities. They will not be applied to joint accounts or business accounts and may not directly cause a person's account to become overdrawn.

With current account deduction orders the Commission will require the deposit taker to deduct a regular amount from a non-resident parent's account to recover ongoing statutory maintenance liabilities and/or arrears. The amount will be based on the non-resident parent's gross earnings and a proportion of those earnings, to be specified in regulations, will be protected. These orders will not normally be used in a case where a deduction from earnings order can be imposed and non-resident parents will be encouraged to convert the deduction into a direct debit or other means of payment which they find more convenient.

Lump sum deduction orders will only be used to recover arrears.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the Department's latest forecast of the *(a)* winners and *(b)* losers under the new maintenance formula which will be used by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, compared with the existing formula, broken down by (i) family size and (ii) income; and if he will make a statement. [146173]

Mr. Plaskitt: With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency case load will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting case load, it is not possible to estimate the average level of maintenance liabilities that will arise.

Figures on the amounts paid under the second child support scheme and statutory maintenance arrangements under different income levels and for different family sizes can be found in table 2, page 19 of the regulatory impact assessment which accompanied the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make use of the key objectives of the new Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission on the recovery of existing maintenance arrears; and if he will make a statement. [146180]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission would have to have regard to its objectives in the exercise of its functions. In line with this, the Commission will, when appropriate, seek to secure compliance with existing statutory maintenance arrangements, including recovery of existing maintenance arrears. The Commission will have at its disposal the new debt and enforcement powers contained in the Bill.

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill: Curfews

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many curfew orders he estimates will be used each year under the powers in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill. [146187]

Mr. Plaskitt: The numbers will depend on a range of factors, including the effectiveness of other enforcement powers.

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide an estimate of the expected reduction in annual administration costs as a consequence of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, broken down by main budget heading; and if he will make a statement. [146186]

Mr. Plaskitt: The overall impact over the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill can be found in the Regulatory Impact Assessment. The estimated effect on annual administration costs of the statutory maintenance service can be found on page 34, paragraph 116.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Child Support Agency maintenance arrears are expected to be collected in each quarter between June 2007 to June 2012; and if he will make a statement. [146148]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not available.

Child Support Agency: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the costs of setting a Child Support Agency maintenance disregard for those on benefits of up to *(a)* £10, *(b)* £20, *(c)* £30, *(d)* £40, *(e)* £50 and *(f)* £100 per week; and what estimate he has made of the effects on child poverty in each case. [146179]

Mr. Plaskitt: The number of children lifted out of poverty and cost of increasing the levels of the child maintenance disregard in income support, jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit are shown in the following table.

Level of disregard	*Number of children lifted out of poverty*	*Cost in extra benefit expenditure (£ million)*
£20	n/a	50
£30	30,000-40,000	100
£40	40,000-50,000	140
£50	50,000-60,000	170
£100	50,000-70,000	200

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. Number of children lifted out of poverty is defined here as the number of children in households lifted above 60 per cent. of equivalised median household income before housing costs by increasing the level of the disregard.
2. Estimates provided are indicative and should only be used to give some idea of scale, since there is uncertainty over future distributions of earnings and maintenance receipts, and figures are sensitive to the assumptions used and drawn from a sample of data.
3. Figures for the number of children lifted out of poverty by a £20 disregard are not available due to a small sample size.
4. Poverty figures are based on analysis of 2004-05 Family Resources Survey and are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
5. Costs are calculated to the nearest £10 million and are based upon a combination of DWP administrative and survey data.
6. Figures are for the extra number of children lifted out of poverty and extra costs compared to a position where there is a £10 disregard in income support and a £25 disregard in housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on child maintenance payments of new powers in respect of *(a)* curfews and *(b)* passport withdrawal; and if he will make a statement. [146145]

Mr. Plaskitt: The disqualification from holding or obtaining travel authorisation and the use of curfew orders are part of a package of changes to the child maintenance enforcement model.

In the case of travel authorisation, giving the power to impose these measures directly to the Commission greatly strengthens their hand in dealing with the non-resident parent. There is more immediacy than a threat of court action. It is envisaged that this threat of imminent action will be significantly more effective in securing compliance.

Curfew orders will serve as an effective alternative to committal; it is expected to create a strong incentive to pay without impeding the non-resident parent's ability to do so by causing him or her to lose his or her job.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on poverty levels of non-resident parents on benefits of setting a £7 minimum child maintenance deduction from benefits; and if he will make a statement. [146175]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is not possible to accurately model the effect of increasing the £5 flat rate payment to £7 on the number of non-resident parents in poverty. This is because we cannot identify with certainty which non-resident parents are currently paying flat rate maintenance from the survey we use to measure poverty, the family resources survey.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for the Department's view that, for child maintenance collection, historic tax income information is close enough to the current financial position of most non-resident parents at the time to be an acceptable and robust basis for assessment. [146177]

Mr. Plaskitt: Our analysis showed that two thirds of non-resident parents subject to the 2003 CSA scheme would have a liability within £10 of that assessment if it were based on HMRC gross income data.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to introduce a general anti-avoidance rule in respect of payments of child maintenance by a non-resident parent. [146184]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are continuing to look at ways to ensure non-resident parents meet their financial responsibilities to their children. Under the proposed scheme, we will use income information held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to ensure non-resident parents cannot delay in providing income information, and deploy the full range of enforcement powers available to the Commission to prevent the non-resident parents avoiding paying the maintenance they owe.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Child Support Agency cases involve use of a deduction of earnings order; and what change he expects in this proportion under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [146192]

Mr. Plaskitt: As of March 2007, around 21 per cent. of the Child Support Agency's caseload where the payment method has been decided had a deduction from earnings order or request in place.

The intention is for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to run a pilot in order to establish whether using deduction from earnings orders as a basic method of collecting child maintenance will increase compliance. It will then decide on whether to proceed with a full roll out. I am therefore unable to provide an estimate of the expected change in this proportion under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Pensions: Family Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what effect past receipt of family credit has on entitlement to pensions under the state earnings-related pension scheme; by what means information about such receipt is transferred from his Department's computer records to those of HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [147019]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A person entitled to family credit between 1995-96 and 2001-02 built up entitlement to the state earnings-related pension (SERPS) based on their family credit award provided they reached or are due to reach state pension age after 5 April 1999.

Prior to October 1999 information on family credit awards was transferred to the then Inland Revenue Department electronically or in exceptional cases clerically. Inland Revenue became responsible for administering family credit in October 1999 at which point more automated processes were put in place for the transfer of information between the family credit computer system and the national insurance recording system.

Note:

Family credit was replaced by working families' tax credit on 5 October 1999.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to change the number of staff employed by 10 Downing Street. [146873]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the senior staff appointments press notice issued by my Office on 27 June. The press notice is available on the No. 10 website http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12153.asp, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Further information on staff in my Office will be published in "Dod's Civil Service Companion" in due course.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Closures

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister if he will visit accident and emergency departments due to close to discuss alternative provision. [147018]

The Prime Minister: My visits will cover a range of subjects, including health.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister what recent representations he has received from military commanders on the allocation of additional funds to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. [147017]

The Prime Minister: I have received no such representations, but I have been briefed by military commanders on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular the Southern Region and Helmand Province where the majority of UK forces are deployed. The briefing covered the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain covering security, security sector reform, and reconstruction.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has considered the recommendations of the recent report of the Public Administration Select Committee on changes to the machinery of government; and if he will make a statement. [147175]

The Prime Minister: The Government will respond in due course.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in his Office in each year between 1997 and 2006; and at what total cost. [146588]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office today.

Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister who his new special advisers are. [146874]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. The information requested will be published in the normal way in due course.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 July 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1659W, on domestic wastes: waste management, if he will provide statistics for the amount of waste produced per person in local authorities operating *(a)* alternate weekly collections and *(b)* traditional weekly collections, based on the data on which councils operate alternate weekly collections referred to in the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 77W on domestic waste. [146161]

Joan Ruddock: It is not possible to provide an accurate comparison of the amount of waste produced per person in local authority areas running alternate weekly collection (AWC) services and the amount produced in those that are not. The list provided to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), *Official Report*, column 77W, reflected our knowledge at the time, but it is subject to change. Additionally, the collection of the data does not neatly coincide with the roll-out of AWC schemes. Indeed, many schemes are currently being rolled out, so not all households in a local authority area on the list will receive the service. In addition, AWC is being trialled in some areas and no decision has been taken as to whether such schemes will be rolled out more widely.

The 2005-06 municipal waste statistics, which include tonnages for individual local authorities, can be found on DEFRA's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/bulletin.htm

Data on the performances of individual local authorities can also be found on the websites of the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Audit Commission.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Ballots: Trade Unions

Mr. Heald: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many meetings the Certification Officer or his representatives have held with the Electoral Commission on trade unions since the establishment of the Commission. [147192]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, while it has no record of any meetings having taken place with the Certification Officer or his representatives, it contacts the office of the Certification Officer periodically to verify the registration of trade unions which are reported as having donated to political parties.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what percentage of sick leave taken by her staff was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145979]

Ms Harman: None.

Short Money

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Leader of the House what estimated Short Money funding allocation she plans to make to Opposition political parties in the House of Commons for the 2008-09 financial year. [147468]

Ms Harman: Financial Assistance to Opposition Parties, known as Short Money, is calculated under a formula established by a resolution of the House in 1999. It is set at £6,618,982 for the 2007-08 financial year. This will increase in April 2008 by the year-on-year rise in the retail prices index as at 31 December 2007. Equivalent arrangements, known as Representative Money, are also in place for Opposition parties whose Members decide not to take up their seats. The amount of Representative Money for 2007-08 is £90,036. This, too, will be increased in April 2008 by the rise in the RPI to the previous December. Detailed allocations for 2007-08 are set out in the Library's Standard Note SN/PC/1663.

Westminster Hall Sittings

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the merits of holding additional Westminster Hall sittings on Mondays. [146404]

Ms Harman: I have made no specific assessment of the merits of holding such sittings on Mondays.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1616-17W on aviation: Northern Ireland, what the reasons were for the three airprox incidents in Northern Ireland between 1 June 2006 and 31 May 2007. [146800]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two of the three airprox incidents in airspace over Northern Ireland during the period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007 remain subject to assessment by the UK Airprox Board (UKAB). In due course, findings will be published both on the UKAB's website at

www.airproxboard.org.uk

and subsequently in hard copy.

The third airprox was the result of a conflict in Class G airspace between a hang-glider and a light aeroplane. Both pilots had a responsibility to "see and avoid". Avoidance action by the light aircraft resolved the conflict and prevented there being any actual risk that the aircraft would have collided. The UKAB assessed the degree of risk as Category B "safety not assured". The full report (reference number 118/06) is available from the UKAB's website.

Petrol Alternatives: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many filling stations in Ribble Valley are able to accommodate alternative fuel types for cars. [147430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally by Government. However information on geographical locations is available on the Energy Saving Trust website at

www.est.org.uk

The Government provides funds to the Energy Saving Trust to run their Infrastructure grant programme. The grants assist the building of refuelling stations for alternative fuels (natural gas/biogas, hydrogen and bio-ethanol).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the resilience of the Mastiff vehicle for service in Afghanistan. [145103]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Mastiff is a robust and capable vehicle and it has already saved the lives of soldiers on operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel injured in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 are (i) awaiting payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and have been waiting (A) less than six months, (B) less than one year and (C) more than one year and (ii) have not applied for payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [139620]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The AFCS injury came into operation on 6 April 2005 and applies to injuries and deaths caused by service on or after that date. All injury claims made between that date and 31 March 2006 have been cleared and a decision issued to the claimant. Therefore none are awaiting a decision.

With regards to the year 2006-07, as at 31 March 2007, there were 593 AFCS injury claims being processed. Of these, 585 claims had been outstanding for less than six months; the remaining eight claims had been outstanding for less than one year.

Outstanding claims are, by definition, at varying stages of being processed, and it is therefore not possible to say how many of the 593 claims will go on to receive an award.

Information is not held on the number of injured personnel who have not made a claim to an AFCS award. Following the evaluation of the first year of operation of the AFCS, which found that the number of claims had been less than forecast, measures are being taken to ensure full awareness of the scheme. Possible lack of awareness in the early days of the scheme does not mean that personnel will lose out: they have five years to claim from the date of the injury.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support is available to the families of service personnel killed in armed conflict. [147137]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace) on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1161W.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* percentage and *(b)* number of postings is with less than four months notice in (i) the armed forces and (ii) each service. [121495]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. While the majority of postings are administered well in advance there will always be short notice postings where guidelines on notice to deploy cannot be met due to, for example, operational or compassionate/welfare reasons.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to restrict the disclosure of information about the future deployment into combat zones of armed forces personnel. [146390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We make every effort to ensure that information regarding the future deployment of armed forces personnel is not released publicly until a statement is made in Parliament, while simultaneously providing our armed forces with enough notice of the deployment to complete appropriate pre-deployment training.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where he expects the mental health pilot schemes to be held; and what criteria will be used to assess their performance. [145195]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The MOD is working with the four UK Health Departments to pilot a new community-based service that will provide NHS health professionals with assured access to expertise in military mental health. We are in discussion with a number of health trusts across the UK, including in the devolved Administrations, who have indicated an interest in participating in the pilot scheme. I expect the first pilots to launch later this summer. The pilots are planned to last for two years, after which they will be evaluated.

MOD will commission a process and outcome evaluation of the pilots over the two-year period. This will be an integral part of the project. The terms of the evaluation, which will cover the two years of the pilots and an additional period for follow-up and report-writing, have been advised by the Project Expert Group which comprises national clinical and health care experts. The evaluation will involve a comparison of the new model of services with services previously available in the same area and will compare the particular approach of individual pilot sites. The key measures will be the assessment and treatment regimes provided, and the patient (and carer) experience and outcomes.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the total cost of defence pensions as a share of defence spending in each year from 2002-03 to 2050-51; and if he will make a statement. [144275]

Derek Twigg: The percentage of Ministry of Defence's budget spent on contributions to the Armed Forces Pension Scheme for the period 2002-03 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table. It is not possible to calculate percentages out to 2050-51 as the Ministry of Defence does not know what its budget will be for this period; the Defence budget for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be set in the comprehensive spending review.

AFPS as a percentage of Defence spending

	Percentage
2002-03	8.1
2003-04	9.8
2004-05	9.0
2005-06	11.3
2006-07	11.8
2007-08	12.8

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of the war disablement pension in each year since 1997. [146072]

Derek Twigg: War pension is awarded at different rates and is based on the degree of disablement caused as a result of service in HM forces. The weekly 100 per cent. rate of basic war disablement pension since 1997 payable is as follows:

	£
1997	107
1998	111
1999	115
2000	116
2001	120
2002	122
2003	124
2004	127
2005	131
2006	135
2007	140

The maximum tax free weekly war disablement pension, including allowances that could be payable to a single, very seriously disabled war pensioner since 1997 is as follows:

	£
1997	386
1998	400
1999	413
2000	418
2001	431
2002	439
2003	446
2004	459
2005	473
2006	486
2007	503

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans are in receipt of a war disablement pension, broken down by percentage assessment of disability. [146073]

Derek Twigg: The number of veterans in receipt of a war disablement pension, broken down by percentage assessment of disability is reported quarterly and presented in Table 1.6 of the War Pensions Quarterly Statistics, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The publication is also available on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/pensions/pensions tab16.html

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of future rapid effect system vehicles will be required to be manufactured in the UK. [144762]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The FRES programme is currently in its assessment phase. In common with all equipment programmes, the decision on where manufacture will take place will be confirmed when the main investment decision has been taken. It is envisaged that the majority of the vehicles will be manufactured in the UK but existing production lines located overseas may be used to manufacture initial batches of FRES vehicles in order to promote early delivery. We are clear, however, that the intellectual property rights, design authority, and systems architecture of the final FRES vehicle must reside in the UK.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role he intends *(a)* the Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation (OCCAR) and *(b)* the EU Defence Agency to play in the future rapid effect system project. [144763]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* For the Utility variant, on current plans, there is no scope to collaborate at the overall programme level but there is scope for co-operation at the sub-system level. The Reconnaissance, Fires and Support vehicle families are also likely to offer further opportunities for co-operative working.

Army Board: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs were of the housing provided by his Department for members of the Army Board in each year since 1997. [130306]

Derek Twigg: The Army Board members who live in Official Service Residences are the Chief of the General Staff (COS), Commander-in-Chief Land (C-in-C Land), Adjutant General (AG) and the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland (GOC NI). The Assistant Chief of the General Staff (ACGS) occupies accommodation rented from a private landlord at a cost of £1,403.50 per month, to which ACGS makes a contribution of approximately £100 per month.

Information has not been retained for years prior to 1999-2000, or in GOC Northern Ireland's case prior to 2001-02. Available figures are shown in the following table.

£

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
COS	86,830	94,751	108,547	197,107	230,977	257,986	144,858
C-in-C	144,548	235,375	155,978	179,751	145,338	129,674	183,676
AG	6,656	54,963	48,909	159,574	147,057	107,242	90,790
GOC NI	—	—	91,473	80,496	81,422	80,038	121,409
TOTAL	238,034	385,089	404,907	616,928	604,794	574,940	540,733

The running cost for the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland for 2005-06 is £1,806 more than that stated in my answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 749-750W. This answer was corrected in my answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1379W. Neither answer included furniture within the maintenance cost, which is included above.

Departments: Lobbying

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many lobbying companies his Department engaged on *(a)* a paid and *(b)* an unpaid basis in each of the last five years; and for what purpose. [141317]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the last five years, the Department engaged lobbying companies as follows:

2002: one company (paid);

2003: one company (paid);

2004: one company (paid);

2005: two companies (one paid, one unpaid);

2006: two companies (both paid);

2007: one company (paid).

for the provision of advice on relations with Congress to the Defence Equipment organisation in the British embassy in Washington, DC, USA on the promotion of British interests in the defence equipment and defence industrial fields in relation to Congress.

Departments: Public Participation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each consultation. [145272]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number and cost of public consultations conducted by MOD is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Surveys

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Senior Civil Service Survey 2006. [143117]

Derek Twigg: Yes. I have today arranged for the document to be placed in the Library of the House.

Ex-servicemen: Health

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are to be put in place to monitor the health status, including DNA and gene damage, of serving and former servicemen and servicewomen potentially exposed to ionizing and depleted uranium; and if he will make a statement. [146598]

Derek Twigg: In March 2003, the MOD established a research programme into the physical and psychological health of personnel deployed (regulars, reservists and MOD civilians) on Operation Telic (Op Telic) as part of its duty of care to serving personnel and in response to lessons learned from the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict. A team led by Professor Simon Wessely at King's Centre for Military Health Research has been carrying out the bulk of this research. The first findings were published in the Lancet last year and there is so far no sign of the repeat of Gulf veterans' illnesses in Service personnel coming back from Iraq. The other main finding of a slightly increased level of common mental health problems in reserve personnel who served in Iraq is being addressed through a package of additional healthcare. We have agreed a three year extension to our original Op Telic research project and Service personnel deployed to Afghanistan (Operation Herrick) will now specifically be covered by it.

Our biological monitoring policy is that all military personnel and civilians on recent operations, such as Iraq (Op Telic), and any future operations involving use of depleted uranium (DU) are offered a test for total uranium in the urine. A test for uranium isotopes, which determines whether the uranium is depleted, is offered if the initial test for the total uranium gives

anomalous results. Around 390 personnel have taken this test. A separate screening programme overseen by the Depleted Uranium Oversight Board (DUOB) tested a total of 496 veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict and Balkans operations. I announced the publication of the final report of the DUOB on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 64WS.

Future Rapid Effect System

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the aim of keeping the intellectual property rights and the design authority of the Future Rapid Effect System within the UK is compatible with the boxer vehicle design proposed by Artec and managed by OCCAR. [146081]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 28 June 2007]*: Yes. UK residence of intellectual property rights (IPR) and design authority status is a key objective of the defence industrial strategy and meeting this objective was a precondition for entry into the FRES utility vehicle design competition.

Galileo Project

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a representative of his Department has attended meetings on the Galileo project in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [146205]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department for Transport (DFT) is the lead Government Department for Galileo. MOD policy officials, along with officials from other Government Departments, provide DFT advice on wider issues.

In addition, the British National Space Centre (BNSC) has contracted satellite navigation experts from the Defence Scientific and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), an MOD executive agency, to provide technical support to the UK's involvement in the EU's Galileo civil satellite navigation programme.

They have regularly attended meetings on Galileo since the earliest days of the programme.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to improve the pensions of Gurkhas who have served more than 21 years with the British army. [146601]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 June 2007]*: The changes necessary to implement the new terms and conditions for Gurkhas that I announced earlier this year have now started. In the particular case of pensions, we propose to offer serving and retired Gurkhas who served on or after 1 July 1997, when the Brigade became home based in the UK, the opportunity to transfer to one of two armed forces pension schemes, with a planned transfer date of 1 October 2007. This will allow Gurkhas to choose the pension scheme which best meets their personal circumstances.

TREASURY

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146086]

Jane Kennedy: Officials throughout the Treasury are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in the International and Finance Directorate in the Treasury total 37. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Informers

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on informers, when Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) commenced taking account of Association of Chief Police Officers' guidelines in calculating rewards to informers; and what the statutory basis is for HMRC taking such guidelines into account. [144256]

Dawn Primarolo: Since the merger of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise to form HM Revenue and Customs on 18 April 2005 all reward payments made by HMRC have followed the relevant ACPO principals.

ACPO guidance does not have a statutory basis in law, but is recognised as "best practice" within the Law Enforcement environment.

Inheritance Tax: Gifts and Endowments

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the limit of the annual exemption from inheritance tax for gifts; and if he will make a statement. [146593]

Jane Kennedy: Under the current inheritance tax rules, most gifts made more than seven years before death are not regarded as within the chargeable estate for tax purposes. Gifts made within this period are brought within the taxable estate; however they will only be subject to IHT where the taxable estate exceeds the nil-rate band of £300,000. Where gifts made within this period may be liable to IHT, there is an exemption of £3,000 each year; there are also various other gifts reliefs available. The Government keep all taxes under review.

National Insurance Fund

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the surplus or deficit on the National Insurance Fund was in each year since 1979. [146249]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is provided in the National Insurance Fund Accounts that are published annually. Copies of the accounts are available in the Library of the House.

Public Expenditure: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public expenditure per head in real terms was for *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* Wellingborough constituency, *(c)* Kettering constituency and *(d)* Corby constituency in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07. [147342]

Andy Burnham: Information on total identifiable expenditure per capita for each region of England is set out in the HM Treasury publication, 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007', May 2007. This provides outturn data from 2001-02 to 2005-06 and planned outturn for 2006-07. The PESA publication is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_publications/pespub_pesa07.cfm.

The Government do not currently disaggregate spending data below regional level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid to recipients of tax credits in Peterborough constituency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [146755]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, is available in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments. Geographical Analysis', which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geoq-stats.htm.

Working Families Tax Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much working families tax credit was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid due to (i) error and (ii) fraud in each year that the credit was available. [146258]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated level of error and fraud by value under the working families tax credit is published in paragraph 5 of the Introduction note in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Error and Fraud Statistics 2003-04", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey: Copyright

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what revenue the Ordnance Survey raised from selling licensable or copyright material to *(a)* schools and public educational establishments, *(b)* commercial cartographers and *(c)* software developers in each of the last five years. [146017]

Hazel Blears *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Ordnance Survey revenue from licensing data and from sales of products and services directly attributable to the schools and public educational establishments for each of the five years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 was £436,188, £461,064, £428,274, £280,334 and £304,837 respectively.

Revenue information is not held separately for the specific categories of commercial cartographer or software developer. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action the Government are taking to support efforts by local public bodies and voluntary groups to strengthen their practice on local sector independence. [147215]

John Healey: As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office are leading a review of the role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration. The role of local voluntary and community groups is central to the review.

Communities and Local Government have been actively involved in the review and supported the activity on strengthening communities. We also published our Third Sector Strategy discussion document on 7 June which invites comments on how we can help strengthen the relationship between the sector and local government.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146330]

David Cairns: The following table provides information on consultancies, none of which was greater than £10 million.

	Amount (£)
2001-02	
Comparison study on motor taxation across Europe	5,465
Professional services in relation to a proposed Scotland to Northern Ireland ferry service	17,864

	Amount (£)
2002-03	
Professional services in relation to a proposed Scotland to Northern Ireland ferry service	4,620
Report on devolution in Europe	6,100
2003-04	
Senior Civil Service Assessment Centre	10,044
2004-05	
Management Review and Assessment Centre for Head of Scotland Office	2,817
2005-06	
None	0
2006-07	
None	0

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146089]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has a small team of policy officials who, among a range of other responsibilities, provide advice and guidance, on request, to UK Government Departments on any Scottish devolution aspects of European Council negotiations, the monitoring and enforcement of EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice.

The Scotland Office does not assist or advise the European Commission, nor does the Scotland Office have officials seconded to the European Commission.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146500]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Members of the senior civil service in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive; their bonuses are assessed under a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The Scotland Office does not hold central information on such bonuses.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146924]

David Cairns: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice who hold the individual personnel records, including annual performance. Poor performance is dealt with by line management within the procedures prescribed by the parent Departments. The Office does not maintain a central record of the performance of staff.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145981]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answers that I gave him on 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1131W and 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 764W.

Departments: Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff surveys his Department undertook in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [145264]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office undertook one staff survey in 2006 at no cost.

WALES

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147600]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146419]

Mr. Hain: On its creation in 1999 the Wales Office initially had two senior civil servants, but since 2000 has had only one. This is the director post, which has been held by two individuals since 1999.

The director has been subject to performance related pay, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance. The current scheme can be found on the Cabinet Office's Civil Service website.

The pay, including any bonus, of the director is reported by salary range in our annual departmental reports, which are available in the House Library and on the Wales Office website.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Work and Pensions on the level of assistance afforded to former Allied Steel and Wire workers under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [146508]

Mr. Hain: The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) allows all members of affected pension schemes to receive payments of 80 per cent. of their pension, which is a substantial replacement of scheme members' pensions.

Up to 27 June 2007, 37 former ASW (Cardiff) members are in receipt of FAS initial payments.

A review led by Andrew Young of the Government Actuary's Department is currently examining whether better use can be made of scheme assets and other potential funding sources, with a view to providing greater levels of help to those who have lost their pensions as a result of scheme collapse. The review is due to report by the end of the year, with an interim report due shortly.

Patients

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on waiting times for hospital treatment in England of patients from Wales. [146402]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on a range of issues, including the delivery of cross border health services.

The number of Welsh patients waiting over eight months for in-patient or day-case treatment has dropped from 7,218 in April 2006 to none at the end of May 2007. This includes patients from Wales receiving treatment in hospitals in England.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce opium production in Afghanistan. [146731]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government supports the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, a key priority of which is to strengthen and diversify legal livelihoods which free farmers and other rural workers from dependence on poppy cultivation.

DFID has provided £77 million from 2005 to 2007 to support the development of legal rural livelihoods, much of which has been channelled through the Government of Afghanistan's own National Priority Programmes.

Alternatives to opium poppy can take many forms. There is no one single crop which will replace poppy, and therefore DFID has provided £3 million to support research into a range of alternatives including high value crops such as mint and saffron. Traditional alternatives include crops such as wheat and onions.

However, alternatives to poppy come not only in the form of different crops. They can often be non-farm activities such as clothes-making and shop keeping. The Government of Afghanistan's Microfinance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA) has provided over £133 million worth of small loans to 364,786 Afghan families to help them invest in their own licit businesses. MISFA operates in 23 provinces, including Helmand. DFID has provided £15 million to MISFA since March 2004. Nearly 75 per cent. of those receiving loans are women.

DFID also provided £18 million in 2005-06 to the Government of Afghanistan's National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), which has so far built or repaired over 9,000 km of roads—essential for rural farmers to access markets. So far the programme has generated over 13 million days of labour for Afghans. NRAP operates in all 34 provinces.

DFID has also provided £42.6 million in total for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and is providing £10.6 million to roll out NSP in Helmand province (2006 to 2009). NSP is helping elected Community Development Councils (CDCs), representing over 17,000 communities across Afghanistan, identify development priorities in their areas and then receive grants to undertake the work. NSP has funded over 28,000 projects in agriculture, education, health, irrigation, power supply, transport, and water supply. NSP currently operates in all 34 provinces.

DFID is making a contribution of £22.7 million over three years (as part of an overall UK Government contribution of £30 million) to the Government of Afghanistan's Counter Narcotics Trust Fund. The fund brings funding for counter narcotics into the national budget, gives the Afghans greater responsibility for managing the drugs problem and ensures money is targeted effectively.

India: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support education in rural areas of *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan. [146730]

Mr. Malik: DFID has been supporting the Indian Government's flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) universal elementary education programme, together with the World Bank and the European Commission, for the last five years to increase educational opportunities, particularly in rural areas where 75 per cent. of school-age children live. DFID has spent £210 million over the five years 2003-04 to 2007-08 in support of SSA. Over the same period the World Bank has contributed £330 million and the EC £100 million. SSA is the central Government's prime vehicle for delivering on the Universal Primary Education (UPE) Millennium Development Goal (MDG), and the 2002 constitutional amendment that made elementary education a fundamental right in the country. The aim is to ensure that by 2010 all children in India are receiving eight years of basic education of acceptable quality, regardless of sex, caste, creed, family income or location.

SSA is a priority for the Indian Government, which last year spent over £1.5 billion on the programme. Over 90 per cent. of India's Government elementary schools are in rural areas and SSA has a particular focus on these institutions. Very good progress is being made:

The number of out of school children has fallen from 25 million in 2003 to 9.6 million in 2006 and the majority of the 15 million plus children that have been brought to school are from rural areas;

Drop out rates have fallen, particularly in rural areas;

Strong progress has been made towards gender and social equity, including for Scheduled Caste children, Scheduled Tribe children and children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, and

The gap in education indicators between rural and urban areas is narrowing. Rural primary enrolment rates are now just 3 per cent. behind those of urban areas. In rural areas there are now 89 girls for every 100 boys enrolled, compared to 94 girls for every 100 boys in urban areas. Examination pass rates are now almost identical in rural and urban areas.

DFID and its development partners are currently preparing a second phase of external support to SSA. The support will have a strong focus on raising the quality of education, through teacher development, improved assessment systems, better school management and improved classroom practices.

In addition to SSA, DFID has just approved £35 million of support for Mahila Samakhya (MS), promoting Education for Women's Equality. This is the Government of India's main programme for tackling women's empowerment through education. It supports mostly rural women to organise into village level collectives called Mahila Sanghas, which empower women to resist violence; to gain better access to education and health services; to open up economic opportunities such as microfinance; and enhance women's role in local government.

DFID's education programme in Pakistan does not focus on rural areas specifically. We generally work through the Federal and Provincial Governments to promote system reforms so our support benefits all, including urban, rural and remote areas.

DFID is supporting nationwide educational development through the Gender and Education Policy Support Project (£3.5 million over four years) and the National Education Assessment System (£700,000 over five years). Both of these jointly funded programmes benefit rural areas.

DFID is also funding education activities in specific parts of the country. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) DFID is supporting a Community Participation Education Project (£550,000 over two years) covering four districts, most of which are rural. DFID support to the Faisalabad Devolution Project (£6.4 million over four years) includes support to develop the strategic and management capacities in the education sector in the Faisalabad district, including support for the improvement of individual schools, many of which are in rural areas. In the Punjab province more widely DFID is contributing £30 million over four years to the Asia Development Bank-led Punjab Devolved Social Services Programme, 17 per cent. of which is for support to education.

DFID contribution to the reconstruction of the earthquake affected areas has a substantial element of this funding is for education, reconstruction and rehabilitation, with much of the earthquake affected areas being rural. We have agreed so far to contribute £44 million in budget support and technical assistance.

Palestinians: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent *(a)* estimate has been made of the number and *(b)* assessment has been made of the humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees on the Iraq-Syrian border; and what support the UK has offered. [146667]

Mr. Malik: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that there are 1,400 Palestinians living in refugee camps on the Iraq-Syrian border. The UNHCR have visited these camps and are providing emergency support. We are in contact with our international partners and aid agencies regarding the situation for displaced peoples both within Iraq and in neighbouring countries, including the Palestinian community, which UNHCR estimates to number about 15,000 people in Iraq itself.

In 2007, DFID has contributed £1.5 million to the UNHCR regional appeal and £15 million for UN Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) work among refugees in the middle east. Both the UNHCR and UNRWA are providing support to Palestinians who are living in refugee camps on the Iraq/Syria border. We have also contributed £7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support vulnerable groups including displaced Iraqis and Palestinians living in Iraq.

Palestinians: Transport

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with international colleagues on Palestinian development, with particular reference to the development of a Palestinian *(a)* airport and *(b)* port. [146729]

Mr. Malik: My right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State for International Development held regular discussions with international colleagues on Palestinian development and I will continue to do so.

Under the UK presidency, the EU led in negotiations with the parties and Secretary Rice to agree the Agreement on Movement and Access which was signed by Israel and the Palestinians in November 2005. This Agreement states that construction of a seaport should commence. The Agreement also notes the importance of an airport in Gaza and recommends that discussions on construction, security and operations should begin. Despite this Agreement, negotiations on the seaport and airport are currently on hold.

At this difficult time in Gaza the urgent priorities are to ensure sufficient and regular supplies to meet the basic needs of Gaza's 1.3 million people and to re-open

external trade. However, in the longer term, establishing reliable access to the outside world will be essential for sustainable economic development, poverty reduction and a viable Palestinian state.

The Government regularly raise their concerns on movement and access restrictions with the Israeli Authorities.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pilot Schemes: Data Networks

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the trial introduced in North Tyneside following the GNN report, 'Data Sharing can lead to Faster, More Efficient Services', will be extended to a further six local authorities; and if he will consider Thanet as a location for one of the next pilot schemes. [146650]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The joint working pilots to extend the trial carried out in North Tyneside to a further six local authorities will run for three months from around September and will be evaluated early in 2008. Six local authorities have been invited to participate and we are awaiting their response. Final selection of the six local authorities is ongoing pending these responses.

We are looking to test across a mix of different types of local authority, including London. Scotland, Wales, rural, urban and large conurbation and selection will also take into account factors such as caseload and performance.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households who were in receipt of (i) housing benefit and (ii) council tax benefit were also in receipt of (A) income support, (B) family credit and (C) any other state means-tested assistance in (1) 1992-93, (2) 1997-98 and (3) 2005-06. [147425]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The most recent available information is May 2004. The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients, by receipt of other benefit[1]: in Great Britain, May 1992, May 1997 and May 2004

	Housing benefit	*Council tax benefit*
May 1992		
All	4,328,000	6,550,000
With Income Support[2]	2,598,000	3,786,000
With Family Credit	92,000	122,000
With other income related benefits[3]	7,000	10,000
May 1997		
All	4,639,000	5,499,000
With Income Support	2,330,000	2,808,000
With Family Credit	242,000	225,000
With other income related benefits[3]	683,000	672,000
May 2004		
All	3,879,000	4,759,000
With Income Support	1,476,000	1,541,000
With Family Credit	[4]—	[4]—
With other income related benefits[3]	1,515,000	2,148,000

[1] Figures refer to cases where either the claimant or the partner was in receipt of other benefits.
[2] Figures include income support for the unemployed in 1992.
[3] Other state income-related benefits are disability working allowance in 1992-97, income-based jobseeker's allowance in 1997-2004 and pension credit in 2004.
[4] Denotes not applicable; working families tax credit replaced family credit in 1999.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. HB data excludes any extended payment cases.
3. CTB data excludes second adult rebate cases.
4. Income support for the unemployed was replaced by income-based jobseeker's allowance in October 1996.
5. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee (MIG) in October 2003 and extended IS entitlement to customers aged 60+.
Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households were in receipt of (i) income support, (ii) family credit, (iii) housing benefit, (iv) council tax benefit and (v) tax credits in (A) 1992-93, (B) 1997-98 and (C) 2005-06; and what the total was of these benefits. [147426]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following tables. Information about tax credits is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Income support claimants in Great Britain as at May in each of the years shown

	Number
1992	5,112,000
1997	3,977,100
2005	2,150,760

Notes:
1. May 1992 figures are produced from a one per cent sample, uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. May 1997 figures are produced from a 5 per cent. sample, uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. May 2005 figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The information for 1997 includes minimum income guarantee; pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee in October 2003
Source:
DWP Information Directorate one per cent five per cent sample and 100 per cent WPLS

Family credit claimants in Great Britain at May in each year shown

	Number
1992	396,700
1997	748,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest one hundred.
2. Working families tax credit replaced family credit in 1999.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants in Great Britain at May in each year shown

	Housing benefit	Council tax benefit
1992	4,325,500	6,563,940
1997	4,639,350	5,498,250
2005	3,956,820	4,959,690

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals were living in households where one or more persons in those households received *(a)* an income-related benefit, *(b)* personal tax credit, *(c)* an income-related benefit or any personal tax credit and (d) any income related-benefit and any personal tax credit in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2005-06. [147432]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table. Information about tax credits is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Income-related benefit recipients in Great Britain as at May 1997 and May 2004

	All	Claimants	Partners
May 1997	9,140,000	7,530,000	1,610,000
May 2004	7,790,000	6,510,000	1,290,000

Notes:
1. Income-related benefits are income support (IS), income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)), pension credit (PC), housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB).
2. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
3. Due to the estimation procedure used to remove the overlaps between housing benefit and council tax benefit, figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
4. IS/JSA 5 per cent. figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. totals of WPLS data.
5. HB data excludes any extended payment cases.
6. CTB data excludes second adult rebate cases.
7. Some income-based JSA claimants may also have entitlement to benefit via the contributory route.
8. Pension credit replaced minimum income guarantee (MIG) in October 2003 and extended IS entitlement to customers aged 60+.

Source:
Information Directorate, 5 per cent samples; 100 per cent. Work and Pensions longitudinal study; and, housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of failed asylum seekers and their dependants removed to their country of origin under the assisted voluntary return (AVR) scheme in 2006 were given help with reintegration through the provision of training, education or help starting a small business; what the average cost per person was of return under the AVR programme in 2006; and what criteria are used under the AVR programme in the selection of recipients for help with reintegration in their country of origin through the provision of training, education or help starting a small business. [146762]

Mr. Byrne: Reintegration assistance is available to all those who return via the voluntary assisted return and reintegration programme (VARRP) one of a number of assisted voluntary return (AVR) schemes operated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on behalf of the Border and Immigration Agency. VARRP is the largest of the AVR schemes and the only one that includes reintegration assistance as standard.

The average cost of an AVRIM return in 2006 was £1,434.23 per returnee.

Reintegration assistance was taken up by 57 per cent. of those who returned through VARRP in the 2006 calendar year. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

	Percentage
Starting a small business	87
Provision of training	1
Provision of education	1
Other	11

Reintegration assistance is provided in kind in the country of return; however, during 2006 the enhanced package offered included the option to take phased cash payments. This is included in the "Other" category.

The average cost of a VARRP return in 2006 was £2,024.59 per returnee. No criteria are used to select recipients for help with reintegration in their country of return as all those who return through VARRP are eligible.

The other major AVR scheme is the assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants (AVRIM). Those who return via this scheme do not generally receive reintegration assistance. However, it can be considered for a limited number of vulnerable applicants who are likely to fall into categories such as victims of trafficking or unaccompanied minors.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqis have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been successful in gaining asylum in the United Kingdom in each year from 2003 to 2007. [146744]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Iraq is shown in the following table. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. Appeal determinations do not necessarily relate to initial decisions made in the same period.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Iraq is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2003 to 2006, nationals of Iraq

	Principal applicants		
	Applications		
	Total	Port	In country
2003	4,015	385	3,630
2004	1,695	105	1,590
2005	1,415	50	1,360
2006[3]	950	105	850

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2003 to 2006, nationals of Iraq

	Principal applicants									
	Decisions									
	Total decisions	Grants of asylum	Grants of ELR	Grants of HP[4]	Grants of DL[4]	Total refusals	Certified refusals	Other refusals	Third country refusals[5]	Non-compliance refusals[6]
2003	6,805	70	2,105	*	45	4,580	50	3,575	465	490
2004	4,815	10	n/a	—	185	4,615	10	3,850	400	355
2005	1,835	5	n/a	10	150	1,675	5	1,370	150	150
2006[3]	730	30	n/a	—	60	640	*	530	60	55

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2.
[2] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.
[4] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[5] Refused on the grounds that the applicant had arrived from a safe third country.
[6] Paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules. For failure to provide evidence to support the asylum claim within a reasonable period, including failure to respond to invitation to interview.
Source:
Immigration and Research Statistics.

Departments: Good Communication Awards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public expenditure her Department incurred to send staff to attend the Good Communication Awards on 30 May held at the Marriott Grosvenor Hotel, London. [146876]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office welcomes external endorsement of the high quality of its website. Two members of the website team attended the Good Communication Awards ceremony on 30 May. Tickets for the event were free, the staff attended in their own time and travelled at their own expense. There was no public expenditure cost incurred in attending.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in her Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145977]

Mr. Byrne: The available information for Home Office Headquarters, Border and Immigration Agency and HMPS are as set out in the following table.

Information concerning the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Public sector Prison Service data relate to absences due to mental and behavioural disorders which include, but are not exclusively to do with, stress related conditions.

	Percentage		
	Year ending 31 March		
Department	2004	2005	2006
Home Office Headquarters	10.60	10.83	8.83
Border and Immigration Agency	9.50	9.07	11.14
HMPS Prison Service	25.00	23.80	23.50

Illegal Immigrants: Mauritania

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had with her Mauritanian counterpart on assistance the UK can give to Mauritania to deal with illegal immigrants sailing from Mauritanian ports to European Union territory. [146997]

Mr. Byrne: I have not had any meetings with my Mauritanian counterpart regarding any assistance the UK can give to deal with illegal immigrants sailing from Mauritanian ports to European Union territory. I am not aware that my predecessor had any such contact.

Immigration Controls: Passports

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes she proposes for the system of passport checks of people flying into the UK; and what steps she intends to take to reduce delays for passengers, with particular reference to those arriving this summer. [146797]

Mr. Byrne: The level of staff working in frontline border control is at an all time high. Tough checks at our airports are imperative if we are to prevent illegal immigration, turn away criminals and maintain

Britain's secure borders. For this reason we will continue to make every necessary check of those trying to gain entry.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to process genuine passengers without delay but the safety and security of the public is our priority.

Immigration: Crime

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested by the police for immigration offences in each year since 1997. [146969]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested regarding all those arrested is not collated centrally by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Written Questions

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 109676, on Harmondsworth Immigration Detention Centre, tabled by the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam on 13 December 2006. [127761]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend, the former Home Secretary, replied to the hon. Member on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 716W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007 to question 144841, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, how the prices charged by the contractor are independently monitored to ensure there is no overcharging. [146616]

Mr. Byrne: The shop prices at Yarl's Wood are not charged by the monitor but are set in line with the Recommended Retail Price. Accounts are returned to the monitor on a monthly basis and are checked to ensure that the profit margin remains below 10 per cent.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007 to question 144839, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, for what reasons women are held in confinement away from the main accommodation areas; for what periods of time; for what reasons satellite news broadcasts were not available on *(a)* 26 April to 4 May, *(b)* 9 to 10 May and *(c)* 22 to 23 May; and if she will make a statement. [146617]

Mr. Byrne: The reasons why women may be held in temporary confinement, away from the main accommodation areas, are governed by the Detention Centre Rules 2001, Rule 42, and Paragraphs 1 to 8. Detainees are held in temporary confinement due to their refractory or violent behaviour, but only because that behaviour presents a risk to either themselves, to others or to the good order and discipline of the centre. The average length of stay in temporary confinement is one day.

Sky satellite news broadcasts were temporarily unavailable during the period of transition between Global Solutions Ltd. and Serco, 26 April to 4 May, due to a payment problem to the supplier and difficulties tuning the system to the correct channels. These problems were resolved and detainee choice continues to govern channel selection. During the other dates mentioned the full Sky satellite service including Sky news was available to all residents.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146332]

Mr. Woodward: The following table indicates how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000.

	(a) Spend on management consultants	*(b) Spend on other external consultants and advisers*
2000-01	[1]51,840.00	[1]707,026.00
2001-02	[1]384,880.29	[1]322,664.10
2002-03	1,035,134.15	1,280,635.83
2003-04	1,503,126.34	1,947,273.74
2004-05	1,623,616.44	1,482,823.21
2005-06	1,169,737.51	2,497,137.22
2006-07	481,797.38	1,678,098.72

[1] There was limited information available for the periods 2000-01 and 2001-02.

No consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bingo

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 on the bingo industry; and if she will make a statement. [146560]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An assessment of the impact of implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 on the bingo industry has not been carried out since the Act does not come fully into force until September 2007.

The estimated costs of implementation to the gambling industry, including bingo, were set out in the 'Regulatory Impact Assessment' which was published in April 2005 with the Gambling Act 2005.

In addition, impact assessments are prepared for each element of the secondary legislation required to implement the Gambling Act 2005. These are published with the related explanatory memorandum

document on the Office for Public Sector Information website, and separately in the better regulation section of the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk.

Cricket: Curriculum

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to facilitate the introduction of cricket into the wider state school sports education curriculum. [146670]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are committed to increasing the amount of physical education and sport in schools. This includes cricket which may be taught in schools as part of National Curriculum PE. Cricket is one of 25 sports helping to deliver the National School Sport Strategy. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) which is the National Governing Body for cricket has received £1.8 million to date to deliver their objectives for the Club Links and Step into Sport programmes within the Strategy.

The 2005-06 School Sport Survey found that cricket is the 5th most popular sport among schools in a school sport partnership, with 89 per cent. of schools offering it to their pupils. The survey also found that cricket was the second most popular sport in terms of club links, with 52 per cent. of schools having links with a local cricket club.

We have established over 100 cricket Community Sports Coaches through the CSC scheme. The majority of CSCs time is spent within the school setting.

Since 2003, Sport England has allocated £14.15 million of Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) funding to the (ECB) to help community sports clubs develop, or redevelop their sports facilities. Early evaluation of CCDP indicates that, since 2003-04, it has made a key contribution to an increase in links between community sports clubs and schools.

Sport England has awarded £4.5 million during the period 2005-08 of Sports Lottery Funding to the ECB's "Chance to Shine" initiative for young people, which aims to regenerate competitive cricket in state schools.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146914]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS changed its appraisal system from 2006-07. The appraisal system now contains two performance categories; successful and needs to improve.

Based on the 2006-07 appraisal reports received to date, there are only six staff in the needs to improve category.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147321]

Margaret Hodge: No estimate has been of the number of staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport using public transport to commute. However there are no car parking spaces available for staff and presumably staff must either use public transport, bicycles or walk to work.

Holidays: Pets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the British Tourist Board on increasing the number of pet-friendly *(a)* hotels, *(b)* bed and breakfast, *(c)* holiday parks and *(d)* holiday resorts. [146471]

Margaret Hodge: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor my right hon. Friends the Members for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward) and for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) have discussed this issue with VisitBritain, which has performed the statutory functions of the British Tourism Authority since 2003.

VisitBritain currently operates the Pets Come Too! marketing campaign, as one of its range of Welcome Schemes. The campaign is designed to make international and domestic visitors to England aware of hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, and providers of self-catering accommodation, which welcome pets.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each sports lottery contributor will contribute to the Lottery funding package for the 2012 Olympics. [147200]

Mr. Sutcliffe: £340 million of National Lottery funding is to come via expenditure by the sports lottery distributors. Of this, £50.5 million (from Sport England) will be spent by the Olympic delivery authority on delivering the venues for the Games. £40 million towards the costs of the aquatic centre and £10.5 million on the velopark. The distributors themselves will determine and spend the remaining £289.5 million on continuing support for elite athletes and coaches, facilities for elite and community use, and community programmes.

In addition to this contribution, as my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) announced on 15 March, it is proposed that the Sport lottery distributors will contribute the following sums to the Olympic funding package between 2009 and 2012.

Sports Council	*£ million Lottery Contribution*
Sport England	99.956
Sport Scotland	13.059
Sports Council for Wales	7.255
Sports Council for Northern Ireland	4.192

I would also refer the hon. Member to the written statement of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS, which provides details of the revised Memorandum

of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor and the arrangement by which the London Development Agency (LDA) and the Lottery will be reimbursed from proceeds from the sale of the relevant LDA-owned land following the games.

Copies of the revised Memorandum of Understanding are available in the House Library.

Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* the Youth Sport Trust, *(b)* the Association for Physical Education and *(c)* Sports Coach UK were consulted on the development of county sports partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [147266]

Mr. Sutcliffe: County sports partnerships (CSPs) are independent organisations created by local partners to provide a forum for the development of sport across a clearly defined sub regional area. Many CSPs have been in existence for some years.

As independent organisations, it is for local partners to decide who to consult and involve in their development. CSPs are key to the delivery of school and community sport and the Youth Sports Trust and Sports Coach UK are actively engaged in working with CSPs across the country.

Video Games: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the regulation of violent video games. [146111]

Margaret Hodge: None. But Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Baroness Scotland of Asthal and my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) represented the UK at the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the Council of the European Union held on 12 and 13 June where violent video games were discussed. A statement setting out the outcome of the Council's discussions was laid in Parliament on 27 June.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the care of a local authority have been reported to the police as missing; and for how many of these children the whereabouts are unknown. [147418]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Children: Databases

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the National Children's database on data protection and confidentiality. [147382]

Beverley Hughes: We have consulted widely at every stage throughout the design and development of ContactPoint and have received a number of representations about compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and about confidentiality. We have worked closely with the Information Commissioner's Office and continue to enjoy an open and constructive relationship with them. We are confident that ContactPoint is fully compliant with the DPA and that the confidentiality of children, young people and their families have been taken into account.

The fourth data protection principle provides that data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. The draft Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007, laid before Parliament on 25 June, will bring ContactPoint into operation. The draft regulations provide that local authorities and other suppliers of data to the system must take reasonable steps to ensure that the data is accurate.

Each local authority will be responsible for the records of children in their area and will have dedicated resources, funded by my Department, to carry out data matching and cleansing to ensure the accuracy and quality of the data held on ContactPoint. The DPA provides that individuals have the right to see personal data held about them and to have it corrected, where applicable. Draft statutory ContactPoint guidance, currently out for consultation until 27 July, sets out how local authorities are expected to handle requests from children and their parents to see their information on ContactPoint and to have any inaccuracies resolved.

The confidentiality and security of the information held on ContactPoint—basic identifying information on all children in England and contact details of practitioners providing services to them—is a key priority. Details of practitioners providing sensitive services, defined as sexual health, mental health and substance abuse, may only be added to ContactPoint with the informed and explicit consent of the child, young person or, where appropriate, their parent. These sensitive service practitioner contact details will be hidden from the view of users. Local authority ContactPoint teams will broker contact between the sensitive service provider and another practitioner who considers that there is good reason to know who is providing the sensitive service.

There will also be special arrangements to protect the records of children whose circumstances may mean that they are at increased risk, for example, where they are fleeing domestic violence. Information that could reveal the whereabouts of the child can be hidden from the view of ContactPoint users. Decisions to do this will be taken on a case by case basis and will be based on the level of threat posed if information becomes more widely available. This is entirely consistent with the principles of the DPA.

Children: Social Services

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on *(a)* the development of social partnership arrangements to cover the children's workforce and *(b)* pay benefits agreements for specialist and professional Children's Services' staff; and if he will make a statement. [144366]

Beverley Hughes: I do not believe we are in a position currently to develop social partnership arrangements for the children's workforce as a whole. The Department has however asked the Children's Workforce Development Council to consider what mechanisms might be employed to bring together key children's workforce stakeholders to consider the issues arising out of CWDC's recruitment, retention and rewards report.

The Department has no intention to introduce pay benefits agreements for specialist and professional Children's Services staff.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent from the Transformation Fund for the development of the child care workforce. [147296]

Beverley Hughes: Our current estimate of the total spent in 2006-07 from the Transformation Fund is £37 million.

Education: Unitary Councils

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the bids of local authorities shortlisted for unitary status on education provision in those areas; [146473]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the local authorities seeking unitary status which appeared on the shortlist published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 27 March 2006; [146476]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the possible impact on child protection and vulnerable groups of children and young people of potential structural changes to local government. [146459]

Beverley Hughes: The decision as to which proposals for unitary local authorities should proceed to stakeholder consultation reflected the collective decision of Government. All the 26 unitary proposals that were received in response to the invitation issued on 26 October 2006 were assessed against the five criteria set out in that invitation. The 16 unitary proposals that have been subject to the stakeholder consultation will now be reassessed against the same five criteria, having regard to all the information available, including that received in response to the consultation.

Primary Education: Drugs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on primary education: drugs (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of children at *(a)* Key Stage 1 and *(b)* Key Stage 2 who are receiving drugs education, as set out in the guidance; and what assessment he has made of the impact of this guidance in teaching young children to resist pressure to take drugs; [146545]

(2) on what date his Department started work on the new drugs strategy on which he plans to consult; [146546]

(3) what guidance existed on this subject prior to 2004. [146547]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's current guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)", replaced a number of publications for schools on drug issues, including the Department's guidance "Circular 4/95: Drug Prevention and Schools", and the guidance "Protecting Young People: Good practice in drug education in schools and the youth service, 1998". In doing so it updated and brought together in one document information for schools on drug education and related issues.

The guidance states that all children should be receiving age-appropriate drug education in all years from Key Stage 1 onwards. Assessment of education provision in schools is undertaken by Ofsted and it tells us that many schools are already doing excellent work in relation to drugs and that the quality and provision of drug education continues to improve. We have not formally assessed the impact of the guidance on the behaviour of children and young people.

Departments have been working since March on the new drug strategy consultation paper that will be published in July and will be the launch for a full and active consultation exercise involving all key stakeholders, service users and members of the public. We will start writing the new strategy when responses start to arrive. Education will be a key strand of the consultation.

Private Education

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children of compulsory school age in each local education authority area attended independent schools in the last year for which figures are available. [147349]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Independent schools: number and percentage of pupils aged five to 15[1]: As at January 2007 (provisional) by local authority area

		Pupils aged 5 to 15		
		Number of pupils in all schools[2]	*Number of pupils in independent schools*	*Percentage of pupils in independent schools*[2]
	England[4]	6,776,710	431,650	6.4
201	City of London	1,679	1,507	89.8
202	Camden	21,809	5,362	24.6
203	Greenwich	30,508	2,137	7.0
204	Hackney	25,643	4,751	18.5
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	17,487	4,284	24.5
206	Islington	19,184	391	2.0
207	Kensington and Chelsea	16,271	7,688	47.2
208	Lambeth	25,260	1,453	5.8
209	Lewisham	29,952	1,509	5.0
210	Southwark	33,626	3,658	10.9

Independent schools: number and percentage of pupils aged five to 15[1]: As at January 2007 (provisional) by local authority area

		Pupils aged 5 to 15		
		Number of pupils in all schools[2]	*Number of pupils in independent schools*	*Percentage of pupils in independent schools[3]*
211	Tower Hamlets	31,095	961	3.1
212	Wandsworth	29,838	6,549	21.9
213	Westminster	20,853	5,252	25.2
301	Barking and Dagenham	25,429	43	0.2
302	Barnet	42,079	4,840	11.5
303	Bexley	34,088	527	1.5
304	Brent	33,886	1,481	4.4
305	Bromley	41,410	3,377	8.2
306	Croydon	48,228	5,373	11.1
307	Ealing	38,732	3,977	10.3
308	Enfield	42,118	1,322	3.1
309	Haringey	29,514	1,673	5.7
310	Harrow	28,944	3,528	12.2
311	Havering	32,269	644	2.0
312	Hillingdon	36,697	2,901	7.9
313	Hounslow	29,049	873	3.0
314	Kingston upon Thames	19,386	2,844	14.7
315	Merton	21,644	2,732	12.6
316	Newham	41,735	666	1.6
317	Redbridge	38,369	3,001	7.8
318	Richmond upon Thames	24,470	6,856	28.0
319	Sutton	26,271	1,301	5.0
320	Waltham Forest	31,611	1,437	4.5
330	Birmingham	151,343	5,958	3.9
331	Coventry	42,138	2,226	5.3
332	Dudley	42,749	224	0.5
333	Sandwell	41,095	0	0.0
334	Solihull	32,843	1,503	4.6
335	Walsall	39,642	1,028	2.6
336	Wolverhampton	32,827	1,228	3.7
340	Knowsley	20,598	25	0.1
341	Liverpool	58,647	1,858	3.2
342	St. Helens	23,693	629	2.7
343	Sefton	38,754	2,225	5.7
344	Wirral	43,645	1,677	3.8
350	Bolton	40,373	2,593	6.4
351	Bury	26,041	1,696	6.5
352	Manchester	58,106	4,099	7.1
353	Oldham	34,968	1,199	3.4
354	Rochdale	29,463	373	1.3
355	Salford	28,974	1,974	6.8
356	Stockport	38,579	3,720	9.6
357	Tameside	30,946	151	0.5
358	Trafford	30,915	1,659	5.4
359	Wigan	41,455	0	0.0
370	Barnsley	29,243	182	0.6
371	Doncaster	39,919	466	1.2
372	Rotherham	37,212	154	0.4
373	Sheffield	65,152	2,408	3.7
380	Bradford	72,426	3,003	4.1
381	Calderdale	29,305	1,065	3.6
382	Kirklees	55,059	1,683	3.1
383	Leeds	93,069	3,919	4.2
384	Wakefield	45,804	3,332	7.3
390	Gateshead	24,553	686	2.8
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	33,264	3,610	10.9

Independent schools: number and percentage of pupils aged five to 15[1]: As at January 2007 (provisional) by local authority area

		Pupils aged 5 to 15		
		Number of pupils in all schools[2]	*Number of pupils in independent schools*	*Percentage of pupils in independent schools[3]*
392	North Tyneside	25,080	812	3.2
393	South Tyneside	19,454	0	0.0
394	Sunderland	37,629	965	2.6
420	Isles of Scilly	223	0	0.0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	24,279	3,093	12.7
801	Bristol, City of	45,019	5,753	12.8
802	North Somerset	25,150	799	3.2
803	South Gloucestershire	34,995	277	0.8
805	Hartlepool	13,100	0	0.0
806	Middlesbrough	19,079	22	0.1
807	Redcar and Cleveland	19,742	0	0.0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	26,472	1,464	5.5
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	33,220	889	2.7
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	43,269	1,479	3.4
812	North East Lincolnshire	21,860	316	1.4
813	North Lincolnshire	21,672	171	0.8
815	North Yorkshire	76,910	4,853	6.3
816	York	21,908	1,817	8.3
820	Bedfordshire	56,606	4,098	7.2
821	Luton	28,149	695	2.5
825	Buckinghamshire	68,436	6,732	9.8
826	Milton Keynes	31,851	787	2.5
830	Derbyshire	99,017	3,477	3.5
831	Derby	33,493	978	2.9
835	Dorset	51,006	3,924	7.7
836	Poole	16,705	712	4.3
837	Bournemouth	18,715	1,129	6.0
840	Durham	63,646	1,612	2.5
841	Darlington	13,659	525	3.8
845	East Sussex	63,440	5,523	8.7
846	Brighton and Hove	28,786	3,009	10.5
850	Hampshire	167,722	12,438	7.4
851	Portsmouth	24,088	2,569	10.7
852	Southampton	26,173	1,435	5.5
855	Leicestershire	84,712	4,055	4.8
856	Leicester	41,937	2,777	6.6
857	Rutland	5,732	1,318	23.0
860	Staffordshire	108,890	3,548	3.3
861	Stoke-on-Trent	30,212	180	0.6
865	Wiltshire	61,492	5,195	8.4
866	Swindon	25,711	57	0.2
867	Bracknell Forest	14,826	2,011	13.6
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	20,292	4,278	21.1
869	West Berkshire	22,955	2,257	9.8
870	Reading	15,382	2,176	14.1
871	Slough	17,625	552	3.1
872	Wokingham	21,850	2,200	10.1
873	Cambridgeshire	73,294	5,838	8.0

Independent schools: number and percentage of pupils aged five to 15[1] As at January 2007 (provisional) by local authority area

		Pupils aged 5 to 15		
		Number of pupils in all schools[2]	*Number of pupils in independent schools*	*Percentage of pupils in independent schools[3]*
874	Peterborough	24,830	304	1.2
875	Cheshire	92,456	6,784	7.3
876	Halton	16,458	12	0.1
877	Warrington	27,085	12	0.0
878	Devon	89,708	6,266	7.0
879	Plymouth	32,163	800	2.5
880	Torbay	16,235	540	3.3
881	Essex	181,653	8,978	4.9
882	Southend-on-Sea	23,660	1,054	4.5
883	Thurrock	20,237	0	0.0
884	Herefordshire	22,157	1,519	6.9
885	Worcestershire	73,048	5,789	7.9
886	Kent	193,083	13,873	7.2
887	Medway	37,227	1,000	2.7
888	Lancashire	152,866	4,718	3.1
889	Blackburn with Darwen	24,066	2,419	10.1
890	Blackpool	19,286	770	4.0
891	Nottinghamshire	100,107	2,203	2.2
892	Nottingham	34,767	2,477	7.1
893	Shropshire	37,969	3,610	9.5
894	Telford and Wrekin	23,845	631	2.6
908	Cornwall	64,720	2,025	3.1
909	Cumbria	64,757	2,404	3.7
916	Gloucestershire	78,623	6,130	7.8
919	Hertfordshire	156,681	16,921	10.8
921	Isle of Wight	16,959	699	4.1
925	Lincolnshire	90,705	3,421	3.8
926	Norfolk	101,071	4,926	4.9
928	Northamptonshire	92,746	4,415	4.8
929	Northumberland	40,035	509	1.3
931	Oxfordshire	82,720	11,377	13.8
933	Somerset	68,852	6,891	10.0
935	Suffolk	90,598	6,269	6.9
936	Surrey	148,735	28,599	19.2
937	Warwickshire	69,523	4,514	6.5
938	West Sussex	99,685	8,543	8.6

[1] Age as at 31 August 2006.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers in pupil referral units.
[3] The number of pupils age five to 15 in independent schools expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils aged five to 15 across all schools.
[4] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many bullying incidents took place in schools in each financial year since 2002-03. [147170]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect data on bullying.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost has been of the Sure Start programme in each year since it began. [146754]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start expenditure for the period from 1998-99 to 2006-07 is shown in the table. Total expenditure includes Sure Start local programmes, child care and some nursery education funding. From 2003-04, expenditure figures also include funding for Sure Start Children's Centres.

	Sure Start current and capital expenditure (£ million)
1998-99	179
1999-2000	213
2000-01	367
2001-02	467
2002-03	680
2003-04	720
2004-05	928
2005-06	1,240
2006-07[1]	1,384

[1] Estimated outturn.
Note:
Data shown corresponds to outturn figures published in departmental reports. 1997-98 excluded as not on like with like basis.

JUSTICE

Cardiff Prison: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on the detoxification unit in Cardiff prison in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement; [147359]

(2) how many applications to the detoxification unit at Cardiff prison were *(a)* accepted, *(b)* rejected and *(c)* made in total in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [147391]

Mr. Hanson: The detoxification unit at Cardiff prison opened on 13 September 2004. The yearly running costs are as follows:

	£
2004-05	520,950
2005-06	548,369
2006-07	532,933

It has capacity for 52 prisoners and is routinely full. The unit is a voluntary unit and is offered on reception. A prisoner may refuse treatment but no one is ever rejected. The following number of applications have been made and processed since its opening in September 2004.

	Number
September 2004 to August 2005	1,051
September 2005 to August 2006	915
September2006 to date	556

Dartmoor Prison

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons 90 cells in B wing at HM Prison Dartmoor are not being used; and for how long this has been the case. [146912]

Mr. Hanson: All cells on B wing are fully utilised. However, C wing was permanently removed from use in November 2002 as it was no longer fit for purpose due to weather penetration, lack of integral sanitation and inadequate security standards. Refurbishment was considered but was not as economically viable as building new accommodation at a better strategic location.

Domestic Violence: Courts

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many specialist domestic violence courts there are; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such courts; how many further such courts are under consideration for establishment; and at which locations. [147160]

Bridget Prentice: There are 64 Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) systems in operation.

My Department and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) commissioned an evaluation of the first five specialist magistrates courts operating in Cardiff, Derby, Leeds, West London and Wolverhampton. The results of the evaluation were published in 2004.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/specialistdvcourts.pdf

The Crown Prosecution Service also evaluated the Caerphilly and Croydon Specialist Courts.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/dvpilotsites0405.pdf

Her Majesty's Courts Service, in conjunction with the CPS and the Home Office, is undertaking a review of the first 25 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. Expressions of interest will be considered for new SDVC systems by end of March 2008.

Employment: Equality

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 are applied to part-time members of the judiciary. [146734]

Bridget Prentice: The retirement ages for all judges, salaried, fee-paid (part-time) and magistrates, were reviewed in the light of the 2006 regulations, and there are currently no plans to change them.

Freedom of Information

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests for information under freedom of information legislation have been awaiting a decision by the Information Commissioner's Office for more than 118 days, as referred to in the answer of 12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 807W, on the Information Commissioner; and whether any request concluded since 10 October 2006 has taken longer than 597 days for a decision to be reached. [146775]

Bridget Prentice: Between 10 October 2006 and the end of May 2007, 69 cases were closed which were older than 597 days. At that time there were 921 open cases which were older than 118 days.

This figure includes complaints pending resolution rather than information requests to the Information Commissioner's Office as a public authority.

Information Commissioner: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many press, marketing and communications staff are employed by the Information Commissioner's office. [146879]

Bridget Prentice: The Information requested has been provided by the Information Commissioner's office, an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. It employs 11 press, marketing and communications staff.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public expenditure was incurred by the Information Commissioner's office in hiring *(a)* public affairs companies and consultants and *(b)* public relations companies and consultants, in each year since its creation. [146880]

Bridget Prentice: The Information requested has been provided by the Information Commissioner's Office, an independent body created by statute with responsibility for handling complaints made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998. Since its creation in January 2001, it has incurred costs for public relations companies as set out in the following table. There has been no expenditure on public affairs consultants or agencies and no expenditure on public relations consultants.

Financial year ending 31 March

	£
2002	0
2003	35,250
2004	100,984
2005	189,852
2006	270,534
2007	304,249

Legal Aid: Asylum

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases in each of the last three years the Legal Services Commission recommended exceptional funding for legal advice and representation for those making asylum support appeals; and how many of those recommendations were granted. [146112]

Bridget Prentice: Community Legal Service funding is not generally available for legal representation at asylum support appeals. Funding is available for general legal advice (falling short of advocacy) to those who qualify financially, under the legal help scheme. This allows legal aid solicitors to advise clients on tribunal procedures and can include the provision of written or oral advice, obtaining counsel's opinion if appropriate, and the preparation of a case to present at a tribunal.

However, the Lord Chancellor has the power, on receipt of a recommendation from the Legal Services Commission (LSC), to authorise "exceptional funding" for representation under Section 6(8)(b) the Access to Justice Act 1999 in those few cases where representation may be essential for a fair hearing, and where no other sources of help can be found.

The LSC has not authorised any requests for exceptional funding for representation before a NASS tribunal in the last three years. It does not record numbers of applications received.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Legal Services Commission pilot on frontloading legal advice and assistance in asylum cases will be *(a)* conducted, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* published; and if she will make a statement. [146113]

Bridget Prentice: The joint Legal Services Commission (LSC) and Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) pilot, entitled the New Asylum Model Early Legal Advice Pilot, commenced on 23 November 2006 and will run until 7 December 2007. The pilot is being evaluated on a monthly basis by the LSC, the BIA and other stakeholders such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Refugee Legal Centre and the Immigration Advisory Service. A full and joint evaluation report will be produced once all cases in the pilot have concluded.

Legal Aid: Families

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of legal aid provision in family law cases was in each of the last three years. [146320]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 347W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of the provision of legal aid services in family law cases was in 2006-07; and what the average length of a legally-aided case was over the same period. [146321]

Bridget Prentice: Figures are not yet available for 2006-07. However, for 2005-06, which is the most current year for which the data is available, the average cost of legal aid services in family law cases was around £3,600. The average length i.e. from issue of certificate to payment of claim, of a legally aided case over the same period was approaching 22 months.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what work is being conducted by his Department in relation to the Group of States against Corruption's review of party funding. [146878]

Bridget Prentice: The Group of States Against Corruption (known as GRECO), is currently carrying out a review of party funding in the UK. The review process includes a 3 day visit to the UK. This visit had originally been scheduled for 4-6 July 2007 but is now expected to take place later this year. During the visit two evaluators from other GRECO member states will be meeting with a range of experts in the field of political party funding. Ministry of Justice officials are facilitating this visit by arranging appointments and providing facilities for the use of the evaluation team. In addition, the Ministry of Justice submitted responses to a GRECO questionnaire earlier this year, setting out the legal basis of the party funding regime in the UK.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* redundant military camps or other Ministry of Defence facilities, *(b)* ships or other floating vessels and *(c)* former secure hospitals were considered and rejected for use as prisons or secure accommodation in each of the last five years; and in each case what the reasons were for their rejection for such use. [146450]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have undertaken a number of national site search exercises to identify suitable sites for new prisons. These have included the consideration of surplus property owned by other Government Departments such as the MOD and the NHS. The majority of these were ruled out at an early stage as they did not meet the basic criteria for conversion into a prison.

NOMS identified one MOD site, Connaught Barracks in Dover, as potentially suitable for conversion into a prison. The Government decided not to proceed with this site. Another MOD site Rousillon Barracks, Chichester was not pursued further because of its listed status.

A competition to explore the option of using vessels as part of the expansion of the custodial estates of both the NOMS and the Borders and Immigration Agency is currently under way and the OJEU Notice covering the requirement was published on 24 October 2006.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners have been detained in *(a)* police and *(b)* court cells in (i) Wrexham and (ii) Wales in each of the last 12 months. [146687]

Mr. Hanson: The usage of Operation Safeguard by individual police forces is held for use as management information only.

8 prisoners were held overnight in court cells in Cardiff on one night in June 2007. 3 of those held were convicted prisoners.

Prisons: Death

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* deaths from natural causes, *(b)* deaths from accidents and *(c)* self-inflicted deaths have occurred in (i) prisons, (ii) young offender institutions and (iii) secure training centres in England and Wales since 1 January 2006. [146449]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested in respect of deaths since 1 January 2006 is provided in the following table. The figures requested at *(b)* are given as 'Other non-natural' deaths.

	Prisons		*Young offender institutions*		*Secure training centres*	
Type of death	*2006*	*2007[1]*	*2006*	*2007[1]*	*2006*	*2007[1]*
Natural causes	84	48	0	2	0	0
Other non-natural	2	0	0	0	0	0
Self-inflicted[2]	65	44	2	1	0	0
Unclassified[3]	0	3	0	0	0	0

1 Up to and including 26th June 2007.
2 Includes all deaths where it appears the individual acted specifically to take their own life, not only those that received a suicide or open verdict at inquest. Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.
3 Awaiting further information before classification.

Prisons: Employment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what target was set for the number of hours of purposeful activity to be completed by prisoners in each year since 1997. [146971]

Mr. Hanson: The national target for the number of weekly hours of purposeful activity between 1996-97 and 2003-04 is shown in the table:

Purposeful activity targets between 1996-97 and 2003-04

	National purposeful activity target
1996-97	26.5
1997-98	22.5
1998-99	24.0
1999-2000	24.0
2000-01	24.0
2001-02	24.0
2002-03	24.0
2003-04	24.0

Purposeful Activity ceased to be a key performance indicator (KPI) in 2004-05, and a national target is no longer set. However, it remains an establishment level key performance target (KPT). Establishments are set annual targets for prisoner activity and performance continues to be monitored internally.

Prisons: Ships

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when HMPS Weare was sold; to whom she was sold and at what price; what the original cost was of *(a)* acquiring and *(b)* refitting her for use as a prison was; what her annual running costs as a prison ship were for each year she was so used; and how many inmates she was designed to hold. [146524]

Mr. Hanson: The Weare was sold in May 2006 to a specialist ship broker as an accommodation barge. Further details of the sale are commercial-in-confidence. Maintenance costs for The Weare in each year since 1997 were published in response to a parliamentary question on 22 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 657W.

The original purchase price paid for the floating prison facility was £3.7 million. The initial refit commenced in 1997 at a cost of around £6.5 million with further re-fits to endure sea-worthiness.

The Weare held up to 400 prisoners.

Probation: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2132-34W, on probation: manpower, if he will estimate how many vacancies not classified as active vacancies there were for *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers (i) nationally and (ii) in each probation area in England and Wales for each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [146590]

Mr. Hanson: I am unable to provide an estimate on how many vacancies within the probation service are not classified as active. Information on vacancies in the NFS was initially collated on the basis of establishment minus staff in post, when the NFS work force information reporting cycle was put in place in 2003. Probation Areas have since been required to report regularly on the number of active vacancies they have. An active vacancy is one which a Probation Area is actively trying to fill through a recruitment process. Information on vacancies was not collected prior to 2003.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who was consulted prior to the introduction of Statutory Instrument no. 1709, 2007. [147027]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board and the Directors of secure training centres.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what role the departmental controller in each of the secure training centres plays in *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* reporting on the use of physical restraint; [147033]

(2) what system of monitoring the use of physical restraint is in place in each secure training centre to ensure that practice complies with guidelines set out in the Youth Justice Board paper on managing behaviour. [147036]

Mr. Hanson: Under section 8 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, every contracted-out secure training centre shall have a monitor, who shall be a Crown servant appointed by the Secretary of State. The monitor's functions are set out in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act and the Secure Training Centre Rules. Key functions are:

to keep the running of the centre under review, and report on it to the Secretary of State

to investigate, and report to the Secretary of State on, any allegations made against custody officers

to ensure that any person applying for certification as a custody officer is a fit and proper person and has received appropriate training.

When a young person has been subject to physical restraint, the Custody Officers involved complete a report immediately after the incident. This is signed by the unit manager, duty operations manager and duty director and copied to the monitor within 12 hours. The report details the reasons necessary for taking such action. The monitor checks that the report explains why physical restraint was considered necessary, who was present at the incident, who authorised the use of physical restraint, who applied the restraint and the exact methods used.

Any incident is also logged in a physical restraint care log book. Records are checked weekly by a nominated head of department and audited. Statistical information is given to the monitor on a weekly basis.

The monitor make a monthly report to a central team at the Youth Justice Board of all instances of physical restraint, together with any concerns he or she may have.

The Youth Justice Board's code of practice "Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate" applies to all establishments in the under-18 estate and covers other issues in addition to physical restraint. The Board undertakes separate assessments of compliance with the code.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times oxygen has been offered, or applied to, detainees following the use of restraint in secure training centres in each of the last three years. [147037]

Mr. Hanson: Oxygen was administered to a trainee at Rainsbrook secure training centre on four occasions in 2005 and once in 2006 following restraint incidents. It was not administered on any occasion during 2004 (or during 2007 to date). The other three centres have not administered oxygen following a restraint incident on any occasion during this period.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consultation process was undertaken when deciding whether to extend the physical restraint procedures in the 2006 Youth Justice Board code of practice; and if he will make a statement; [147066]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that physical restraint is appropriately used within juvenile secure estates following changes to the 2006 Youth Justice Board code of practice; and if he will make a statement; [147067]

(3) what representations he has received on changes to physical restraint procedures in the 2006 Youth Justice Board code of practice; and if he will make a statement; [147068]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Youth Justice Board (YJB) when considering changes to the physical restraint procedures outlined in the 2006 YJB code of practice; and if he will make a statement; [147069]

(5) if he will make a statement on the decision to extend physical restraint within juvenile secure estates. [147071]

Mr. Hanson: We have not extended physical restraint procedures in the under-18 secure estate.

The recent inquest into the death in 2004 of Adam Rickwood highlighted a lack of clarity in the law relating to the use of physical restraint in secure training centres. Section 9 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 places certain duties on custody officers in contracted-out secure training centres, including a duty to ensure good order and discipline. It states that the powers arising by virtue of those duties include power to use reasonable force where necessary. However, the purposes for which approved methods of physical restraint may be used, as set out in rule 38 of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998, did not include ensuring good order and discipline. In consequence, the coroner recommended urgent action to clarify the law. In response to his recommendation, we laid before Parliament on 13 June the Secure Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007. They come into effect on 6 July.

Before laying the new rules, we consulted with the Youth Justice Board and the directors of secure training centres. The board and the directors were of the view that the change to the rules should be made as quickly as possible.

I or my officials have received seven letters and four e-mail messages making representations or seeking information on this subject, including a letter from the chairman of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

The change to the rules does not affect the two other types of establishment in the under-18 secure estate: young offender institutions and secure children's homes, to which other rules or regulations apply.

The Youth Justice Board has not amended its code of practice, "Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate" (February 2006), and has no plans to do so. Section 10 of the code sets out the principles governing the use of physical restraint. The amendment to the rules does not affect those principles. Nor does it alter the particular techniques that may be used (though those techniques are not prescribed by the code). The particular techniques that may be applied vary between the three sectors of the estate. In secure training centres, methods approved by the Secretary of State may only be applied.

Use of physical restraint in the under-18 estate is monitored by the Youth Justice Board, in accordance with section 10 of the code of practice. Following the introduction of the code last year, all under-18 establishments were required to conduct an assessment of compliance. The assessments were audited by the Youth Justice Board. Establishments that were not able to demonstrate full compliance were required to draw up an action plan to achieve it.

All under-18 establishments must provide the board with monthly statistics on use of restraint. A new, improved system of data collection was introduced in April this year. The board is planning a further assessment of performance in relation to use of restraint later this year.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries occurred in juvenile secure units as a result of physical restraint in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [147070]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested relating to the under-18 estate at large was not collected centrally before the introduction of the Youth Justice Board's new data collection system in April 2007.

However, since February 2006, the Youth Justice Board has required secure training centres to make specific reports of any injuries. It has had no reports of injuries to young people arising out of the use of restraint during this period.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unannounced inspections of each secure training centre have been carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years. [147124]

Mr. Hanson: Inspection of secure training centres was originally the responsibility of the Social Services Inspectorate and subsequently the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI). CSCI began to include unannounced inspections in its secure training centre inspection programme from April 2006. Inspection of secure training centres transferred to the expanded Ofsted on 1 April 2007.

In 2006 Rainsbrook, Medway and Hassockfield each received an unannounced inspection. So far in 2007, Oakhill has received two unannounced inspections.

Immediately after the deaths of Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt in 2004, unannounced inspections were conducted at Rainsbrook and Hassockfield.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children have been injured during physical restraint in each of the secure training centres in each quarter since January 2006. [147125]

Mr. Hanson: Since February 2006, the Youth Justice Board has required secure training centres to make specific reports of any injuries. It has had no reports of injuries to young people arising out of the use of restraint during this period.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what use was made of the chemical incapacitate known as PAVA to end the rooftop demonstration at Huntercombe Young Offenders Institution on 15 June; and if he will make a statement. [147127]

Mr. Hanson: During the operation to bring a rooftop incident to a close, PAVA was deployed in circumstances which the intervention teams judged to present no risk to the safety of the young offenders. Operational assessment is that the deployment hastened the resolution of the incident.

Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responses he has received about the piloting of the Victims' Advocate Scheme. [147159]

Mr. Hanson: The response to the scheme is very encouraging. The pilot began in five Crown court centres on 24 April 2006. There are currently 258 eligible cases and in 199 of these the family has chosen to make a statement in court or access personal and social legal advice. As at 18 June 2007, 40 family impact statements had been made with 38 delivered orally in court and in two read privately by the judge.

Young Offender Institutes

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum capacity of young offender institutes was in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* male and *(b)* female accommodation. [146120]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables provide the operational capacity, at the end of June for each year from 1997 to 2006, of each designated Young Offender Institution (YOI) in England and Wales.

The tables list those sites that only hold under 21-year-olds either on remand or as sentenced young offenders. Operational capacity describes the total number of prisoners for the whole prison. For those establishments that have split functions, the operational capacity for the different functions are not available.

Women young offenders are held in accommodation designated for young offenders within women's prisons.

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 1997 to 1999

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
1997	
Aylesbury	328
Brinsford	509
Castington	300
Colchester	38
Deerbolt	466
Dover	316
Feltham	922
Glen Parva	882
Hatfield	180
Hindley	551
Hollesley Bay	470
Huntercombe	266
Lancaster Farms	536
Low Newton	299
Northallerton	298
Onley	520
Portland	536
Reading	245

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 1997 to 1999

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
Stoke Heath	322
Swinfen Hall	202
Thorn Cross	316
Werrington	121
Wetherby	360
1998	
Aylesbury	328
Brinsford	540
Castington	330
Deerbolt	432
Dover	316
Feltham	922
Glen Parva	852
Guys Marsh	509
Hatfield	180
Hindley	547
Huntercombe	384
Lancaster Farms	536
Northallerton	298
Onley	640
Portland	576
Reading	245
Stoke Heath	646
Swinfen Hall	319
Thorn Cross	316
Werrington	192
Wetherby	360
1999	
Aylesbury	355
Brinsford	509
Castington	366
Deerbolt	488
Dover	316
Feltham	922
Glen Parva	852
Guys Marsh	509
Hatfield	180
Hindley	502
Huntercombe	376
Lancaster Farms	536
Northallerton	298
Onley	640
Portland	576
Reading	245
Thorn Cross	316
Stoke Heath	646
Swinfen Hall	319
Werrington	188
Wetherby	360

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 2000 to 2002

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
2000	
Ashfield	400
Aylesbury	355
Brinsford	493
Castington	366
Deerbolt	488

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 2000 to 2002

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
Dover	316
Feltham	818
Glen Parva	852
Hatfield	180
Hindley	58
Hollesley Bay	361
Huntercombe	368
Lancaster Farms	536
Northallerton	298
Onley	640
Portland	572
Reading	247
Stoke Heath	622
Swinfen Hall	320
Thorn Cross	316
Werrington	106
Wetherby	360
2001	
Ashfield	400
Aylesbury	352
Brinsford	493
Castington	406
Deerbolt	426
Feltham	729
Glen Parva	802
Hatfield	180
Hindley	558
Huntercombe	368
Lancaster Farms	536
Northallerton	264
Onley	640
Portland	542
Reading	241
Stoke Heath	564
Swinfen Hall	319
Thorn Cross	316
Werrington	140
Wetherby	360
2002	
Ashfield	400
Aylesbury	352
Brinsford	493
Castington	406
Deerbolt	486
Feltham	715
Glen Parva	802
Hatfield	180
Hindley	59
Huntercombe	352
Lancaster Farms	546
Northallerton	254
Onley	580
Portland	542
Reading	289
Stoke Heath	688
Swinfen Hall	320
Thorn Cross	316
Warren Hill	214
Werrington	134
Wetherby	360

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 2003 to 2005

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
2003	
Ashfield	400
Aylesbury	35
Brinsford	493
Castington	410
Deerbolt	518
Feltham	748
Glen Parva	808
Hindley	559
Huntercombe	350
Lancaster Farms	526
Northallerton	254
Onley	580
Portland	456
Reading	289
Rochester	180
Stoke Heath	688
Swinfen Hall	320
Thorn Cross	316
Warren Hill	220
Werrington	148
Wetherby	360
2004	
Ashfield	304
Aylesbury	364
Brinsford	493
Castington	346
Deerbolt	518
Feltham	761
Glen Parva	808
Hindley	539
Huntercombe	368
Lancaster Farms	527
Northallerton	254
Onley	580
Portland	476
Reading	289
Stoke Heath	690
Swinfen Hall	440
Thorn Cross	316
Warren Hill	222
Werrington	148
Wetherby	324
2005	
Ashfield	360
Aylesbury	438
Brinsford	493
Castington	410
Deerbolt	518
Feltham	761
Glen Parva	808
Hindley	455
Huntercombe	368
Lancaster Farms	527
Northallerton	209
Portland	398
Reading	297
Rochester	392
Stoke Heath	690
Swinfen Hall	590
Thorn Cross	316
Warren Hill	222
Werrington	148
Wetherby	360

Operational capacity of young offender institutions in each year from 2006

Establishment	*Operational Capacity*
Ashfield	380
Aylesbury	444
Brinsford	489
Castington	410
Deerbolt	458
Feltham	764
Glen Parva	808
Hindley	455
Huntercombe	368
Lancaster Farms	527
Northallerton	248
Portland	524
Reading	297
Rochester	382
Stoke Heath	690
Swinfen Hall	620
Thorn Cross	321
Warren Hill	222
Werrington	162
Wetherby	353

Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to help young female offenders get back into employment. [146388]

Mr. Hanson: There is a wide agenda of cross Government work underway to improve offenders' job prospects and to enable them to access sustainable employment. The joint DFES, Home Office and DWP reducing re-offending through skills and employment action plan sets the direction for this work. There are a number of programmes specifically designed to meet the needs of women. At Holloway prison, a job club has recently been set up by the European funded Exodus project to help women with CV writing, searching for employment and interview skills.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures in place to rehabilitate young offenders on their release from prison; and if he will make a statement. [146798]

Mr. Hanson: The inter-departmental reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan has at its heart the management of offenders from one end of their sentence to the other. It has a strong focus on commissioning the most effective interventions for offenders, including young offenders who often have chaotic lives and complex needs.

The Youth Justice Board published its youth resettlement framework for action in 2006, focusing on developing the key resettlement pathways and has rolled out resettlement and aftercare provision schemes (RAPS) in over 50 youth offending team (YOT) areas, providing planned resettlement activities for young offenders in custody and in the community.

The effective resettlement of offenders into the community is not just an issue for the Ministry of Justice. It requires a great deal of cross-Government and local partnership commitment, and this is currently being developed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Treaty

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the process is for agreeing a new EU treaty; and if he will make a statement. [146826]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Portuguese presidency plans to open an Inter-Governmental Conference on 23-24 July. Technical work will then be taken forward by working groups. The presidency aims to conclude the Treaty at the European Council in Lisbon on 18 October. Ratification by member states would then follow.

UN Drugs Organisations

15. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the objectives of the United Nations drugs organisations. [146827]

Dr. Howells: UK policy is to support international drug control, including the relevant UN Conventions, and the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in implementing it. The UK is a long standing member of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs and is also a major donor to UNODC.

Non-proliferation Treaty Review

16. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking in preparation for the non-proliferation treaty review conference in 2010. [146828]

Dr. Howells: On 25 June, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary set out how we intended to work towards the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in 2010.

She called for a reinvigorated commitment to a world free from nuclear weapons and recognised the pressure on the nuclear Non-Proliferation regime, particularly from Iran and North Korea. She made clear that we are committed to strengthen all aspects of the Nuclear NPT.

Zimbabwe

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to improve the political situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [146830]

Meg Munn: Mugabe has presided over catastrophic decline. Since 2000, the UK has given £143 million to help ordinary Zimbabweans stay alive, directly supporting nearly 1.6 million people. We will continue to support all those working for democratic change. Meanwhile state-sponsored violence in Zimbabwe must stop, the rule of law must be respected and the upcoming elections must meet the standards that Southern African Development Community states have themselves set one another.

Iran

18. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on Iran. [146831]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State had regular discussions with her European counterparts on Iran, most recently at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June.

Middle East

19. **Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the middle east peace process. [146833]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend for Leeds North-East (Mr. Hamilton)

The middle east peace process is one of our highest priorities. Our objective remains a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two-state solution is the only realistic basis for a just and lasting peace, despite Hamas' actions in Gaza. This means a viable state of Palestine living in peace and security alongside the state of Israel. Both parties need to fulfil their obligations in order for this to become a reality. The international community has a key role to play in helping to secure this outcome. The Government are fully committed to doing whatever it can to help.

Israel

20. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel on incursions by Israeli armed forces into Palestine. [146834]

Dr. Howells: The impact of Israel's military operations remains a real concern. Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism but it must respect international humanitarian law. We regularly raise our concerns about this with the Israeli Government.

Occupied Territories

22. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the growth of illegal settlements in the west bank and east Jerusalem since 2002. [146836]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned at continuing settlement activity in the west bank and east Jerusalem. Non-governmental organisations have reported that the number of settlements has not changed but totals of settlers have risen.

The UK has stated that the settlements are illegal under international law; Israel should freeze all construction, including "natural growth" of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv last raised our concerns with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May.

Afghanistan

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the security situation in Afghanistan. [146815]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in the southern provinces of Afghanistan remains very challenging. Our forces, and those of Afghanistan and other international security assistance force nations, continue to work with great professionalism and bravery to provide the people of the Helmand and Kandahar provinces with the support they require to construct the services and infrastructure needed so badly in that part of the world.

African Union: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on increasing co-operation between the UN Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such co-operation on African Union military involvement in *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Somalia, *(c)* the Central African Republic and *(d)* Chad. [146937]

Meg Munn: We strongly welcome the growing co-operation between the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (AUPSC). Both have a vital role to play in conflict management in Africa. We are actively encouraging them to develop a practical and more formalised relationship. The UK and South Africa jointly led a UNSC mission to Africa from 14 to 18 June which included a joint UNSC-AUPSC meeting in Addis Ababa. The two bodies agreed to enhance co-operation and the UNSC agreed to "examine the possibility of the financing of a peacekeeping operation undertaken by the AU or under its authority" (copies of their joint communiqué will be placed in the Library of the House).

The UN and the AU are working extremely closely on Darfur, including joint mediation by their respective special envoys and on planning for the UN/AU hybrid peacekeeping operation. Discussions with the AU during the UNSC mission helped pave the way for authorisation of the hybrid operation by the UNSC and AUPSC.

We fully support the AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM)—the UK-sponsored UNSC Resolution 1744, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 20 February, authorising the AMISOM's deployment. The UN is supporting AMISOM through an assistance cell to the AU in Addis Ababa and providing military planners. The UNSC has requested the Secretary-General to consult the AU on how to strengthen AMISOM and authorised him to begin contingency planning for a possible UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia. The UNSC mission discussed with the AUPSC on 16 June the need for an inclusive political process in Somalia. The two bodies will continue to work in tandem to try to help bring peace and stability to Somalia.

The AU has no military involvement in the Central African Republic or Chad. The UNSC is considering what role the UN might play to ensure stability and humanitarian access. The UNSC mission held discussions with the AU on 16 June on these issues.

Australia: Foreign Relations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Australian counterpart since January. [146998]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his Australian counterpart as yet. He looks forward to that opportunity. My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) the then Foreign Secretary and her counterpart, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer, met for substantive bilateral discussions on 18 to 19 December 2006 at the Australia-United Kingdom ministerial dialogue meeting in London.

Bermuda: Arrests

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the arrest and detention of the Auditor General for law and order in Bermuda. [146935]

Meg Munn: The Auditor General in Bermuda was arrested and subsequently released on police bail in connection with an ongoing criminal investigation by the Bermuda Police Service. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further.

Burma: UN Resolutions

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic steps the United Nations has taken on Burma since a resolution was vetoed in January. [147143]

Meg Munn: On 22 May, the UN Secretary-General announced that Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Special Adviser on the International Compact in Iraq and Other Issues, would continue to pursue the Good Offices mandate on Burma.

The UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, visited Burma from 25 to 29 June to address compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1612, which lays down reporting requirements for a number of countries of concern, including Burma.

The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Margareta Wahlstrom, visited Burma from 4 to 9 April to assess the humanitarian situation in Burma.

The UN has a key role to play in addressing the political and humanitarian challenges in Burma. The UK will continue to support the UN's efforts in Burma.

Canada

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart. [146733]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary last spoke to her counterpart, Canadian Foreign Minister Mr. Peter MacKay, by telephone on 9 March, when they discussed a number of international issues.

Cayman Islands: Business

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the US Administration in the last 12 months on the Cayman Islands and companies operating there; and if he will make a statement. [147213]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no representations from the US Administration in the last 12 months on the Cayman Islands and companies operating there.

Central African Republic: Kidnapping

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports and representations he has received on armed groups seizing children for ransom payments in the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [147129]

Meg Munn: We are monitoring the security and human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and are concerned by recent reports from Amnesty International referring, among other things, to incidents of armed groups kidnapping children for ransom. We have seen reports of child abductions by armed groups from refugee groups which appear to constitute forced recruitment and have raised this with the Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

We remain concerned by increased reports of humanitarian violations in CAR and the increasing level of violence in the north-west of the country, which has forced some humanitarian organisations to suspend operations in some areas. We have raised our concerns with the CAR authorities and welcome President Bozize's intention to carry out an investigation into the allegations of human rights abuses.

Darfur Oil Trust Fund

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with other members of the Government on the proposal for a Darfur Oil Trust Fund. [146624]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the proposal for an oil trust fund with other members of the Government. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials are discussing the proposal and will discuss the idea in more detail with the Aegis Trust.

We welcome the Aegis Trust proposal for an oil trust fund. This could be an option for consideration in the future to put further pressure on the government of Sudan to meet its commitments on Darfur. As with other measures, we need to carefully consider its impact on the economy and poverty reduction in the whole of Sudan, and on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), agreed between north and south Sudan in 2005. Oil revenues are key to delivering the CPA's peace dividend across Sudan. The UK's policy remains focused on smart and targeted multilateral sanctions.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with other members of the Government on the proposals for a Darfur Oil Trust Fund; and if he will make a statement. [146901]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the proposal for an oil trust fund with other members of the Government. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development officials are discussing the proposal and will discuss the idea in more detail with the Aegis Trust.

We welcome the Aegis Trust proposal for an oil trust fund. This could be an option for consideration in the future to put further pressure on the Government of Sudan to meet its commitments on Darfur. As with other measures, we need to carefully consider its impact on the economy and poverty reduction in the whole of Sudan, and on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), agreed between north and south Sudan in 2005. Oil revenues are key to delivering the CPA's peace dividend across Sudan. The UK's policy remains focused on smart and targeted multilateral sanctions.

East Timor: Democracy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the conduct of the parliamentary election campaign in East Timor and its conformity with the Political Party Accord and Code of Conduct. [146938]

Meg Munn: The Deputy Head of our embassy in Jakarta visited Dili from 18 to 21 June and met with the East Timorese Government, the UN Mission and other key interlocutors. There was agreement that the

parliamentary election campaign was proceeding well, with minimal evidence only of violence. All parties were respecting the Political Party Accord and Code of Conduct. The EU Election Observation Mission in East Timor also report that the electoral preparation is progressing well. We will continue to monitor progress.

European Constitution Treaty

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost of a national referendum on an EU treaty. [146102]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

This Department has not made an estimate of the cost of a national referendum on an EU treaty. We would, however, expect the cost of running a UK referendum to be similar to the cost of a general election. The last general election cost approximately £80 million.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the future of the middle east peace process. [146829]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today (UIN 146824) to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes).

The middle east peace process is a top priority. We seek a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the only realistic basis for a lasting peace. This means a viable state of Palestine living in peace alongside the state of Israel. Both parties must fulfil their obligations for this to become reality. The international community has a key role to play. The Government are fully committed to doing whatever they can to help.

Palestinian Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 211W, on Palestinian arms trade, if he will list the items provided by the UK to Palestinian Authority forces for close protection. [146680]

David Miliband: During financial year 2006-07, the UK provided the following to Palestinian President Abbas for close protection from the Global Conflict Prevention Pool: four Honda motorcycles; eight helmets; eight leather jackets; and four sets of gloves. We have also provided maintenance for three vehicles. The total cost for this was £36,081.

Russia and UK-EU Relations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Russian relations with the UK and the EU. [146835]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Russia is a key partner for the UK and the EU. Both the UK and the EU share interests with Russia for example on trade, energy, human rights, security and a host of international issues, but on occasions our assessments and approaches differ. Where we have disagreements or concerns, we, and the EU, raise them frankly with the Russian authorities.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Saudi Arabian officials on the country's human rights record. [146732]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the former Foreign Secretary's most recent meetings with her counterpart His Royal Highness Prince Saud were in the margins of the Iraq Compact Group (May) and the Paris Donor Conference for Lebanon (January) and focused on issues relevant to those events.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, regularly raising our concerns, both bilaterally and through the European Union.

Sierra Leone: Prisons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of prisoners' rights and living conditions in Sierra Leone. [146932]

Meg Munn: The UN has recently published a report 'Behind Walls: An Inventory and Assessment of Prisons in Sierra Leone' which documents the state of prisoners' living conditions in Sierra Leone. The work of the Department for International Development-funded justice sector development programme (JSDP) in Sierra Leone informed the preparation of the report and provided some of the information it contains.

The JSDP is a £25 million, five-year programme, which started in 2005 and includes extensive work on prisoners' rights and living conditions. Some of the JSDP work already carried out has included: the development of a Best Practice-Case Management handbook that identified problems across the criminal justice system and provided training to tackle the problems identified, which led to a reduction in the remand rate from 70 per cent. to 52 per cent. in prisons in the last year; the rehabilitation of Moyamba Prison and improvements at Kenema Prison which have improved living conditions and reduced overcrowding; the construction of water wells at Pujehun and Bo Prison; and the renovation and furnishing of a school and home for children who otherwise would have been kept in adult prisons.

In addition, the JSDP is helping the Prison Service to develop a strategic plan which takes into account the need to improve prisoners' rights and living conditions.

Simon Mann

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* representations he has made and *(b)* reports he has received on the (i) imprisonment and (ii) welfare of Simon Mann in Harare; and if he will make a statement. [146858]

Meg Munn: When a British national is detained overseas, our principal role is to take an interest in their welfare. Consular officials have visited Simon Mann regularly and, where appropriate, raised any concerns with the Zimbabwean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with colleagues in *(a)* NATO, *(b)* the European Union and *(c)* the United Nations Security Council on the ending of offensive Sudanese flights over Darfur. [146655]

Meg Munn: We are working with international partners in the UN Security Council to press both the African Union (AU) and the Panel of Experts to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of any instances of offensive military flights in Darfur.

We will pursue further UN sanctions if the Government of Sudan do not cease their aerial bombardment of Darfur; and if it or the rebel movements impede deployment of the AU-UN hybrid peacekeeping force or the relief efforts of the humanitarian agencies, or fail to engage on the political process, or commits human rights violations. Further measures would include better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur, with an enforced no fly zone a possibility for the future. We would need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and impact on the humanitarian effort of any measures.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the timetable for the full deployment of the combined African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force to Sudan; what decisions were made at the enlarged Contact Group meeting in Paris; and if he will make a statement. [146900]

Meg Munn: The UN and African Union (AU) are still negotiating the timetable for the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur. We want the force to deploy as soon as possible.

My noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, attended the enlarged Sudan Contact Group meeting in Paris on 25 June which called on all to agree on the earliest possible date for deployment. The meeting also stressed the need to push ahead with the political process to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* proposed mandate and *(b)* command and control structure will be for the joint African Union-United Nations deployment to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [146902]

Meg Munn: The proposed mandate of the joint African Union (AU)—UN peacekeeping force for Darfur is contained in the report produced by the AU and UN and presented to the Government of Sudan in Addis Ababa on 12 June. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House. The Peace and Security Council of the AU endorsed this proposed mandate on 22 June. We are preparing a UN Security Council Resolution with other Security Council members that will mandate the UN elements of the force.

The command of the force will be unified to UN standards and principles. This is necessary for it to be effective and to secure UN troop contributors and funding. The new AU Mission in Sudan Force Commander, Nigerian General Agwai, will take over as Force Commander of the hybrid mission when it deploys. He will report to the newly appointed Joint Special Representative, Rodolphe Adada, who reports to both the UN and AU, which agreed these two appointments.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with colleagues within NATO, the European Union and the UN Security Council on ending offensive Sudanese flights over Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [146903]

Meg Munn: We are working with international partners in the UN Security Council to press both the African Union (AU) and the Panel of Experts to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of any instances of offensive military flights in Darfur.

We will pursue further UN sanctions if the Government of Sudan does not cease its aerial bombardment of Darfur; and if it or the rebel movements impede deployment of the AU-UN hybrid peacekeeping force or the relief efforts of the humanitarian agencies, or fail to engage on the political process, or commit human rights violations. Further measures would include better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur, with an enforced no fly zone a possibility for the future. We would need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and impact on the humanitarian effort of any measures.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is for the full deployment of the African Union-United Nations force in Darfur; and what progress was made at the Contact Group Meeting in Paris. [147026]

Meg Munn: The UN and African Union (AU) are still negotiating the timetable for the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur. We want the force to deploy as soon as possible.

My noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, attended the enlarged Sudan Contact Group meeting in Paris on

25 June which called on all to agree on the earliest possible date for deployment. The meeting also stressed the need to push ahead with the political process to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to *(a)* expedite the deployment of the full African Union-United Nations force to Darfur and *(b)* encourage other countries to act in a similar manner; and if he will take steps to establish a public and verifiable timetable to keep the Sudanese Government to its commitments to accept the joint force. [147202]

Meg Munn: We are pressing the African Union (AU) and UN to deploy the AU-UN hybrid force as quickly as possible. We are preparing a draft UN Security Council Resolution, with other Security Council members, to mandate the force which will give the UN the authority it needs to begin preparations for deployment later this year. The Peace and Security Council of the AU has already endorsed the proposed mandate for the force.

We have also made clear to the Government of Sudan that we would consider tougher measures if they were to take action which impeded the deployment of this force.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether the Joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force in Sudan will be under overall United Nations control. [146610]

Meg Munn: The command of the African Union (AU)-UN hybrid peacekeeping force will be unified to UN standards and principles. This is necessary for the force to be effective, and to secure UN troop contributors and funding. The new AU Mission in Sudan Force Commander, Nigerian General Agwai, will take over as Force Commander of the hybrid mission when it deploys. He will report to the newly appointed Joint Special Representative, Rodolphe Adada, who reports to both the UN and AU, which agreed these two appointments.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the likely timetable for the full deployment of the Joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force to Sudan; and if she will make a statement on the decisions reached at the enlarged Contact Group meeting in Paris. [146623]

Meg Munn: The UN and African Union (AU) are still negotiating the timetable for the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur. We want the force to deploy as soon as possible.

My noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, attended the enlarged Sudan Contact Group meeting in Paris on 25 June which called on all to agree on the earliest possible date for deployment. The meeting also stressed the need to push ahead with the political process to resolve the Darfur crisis.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the proposed mandate for the Joint African Union-United Nations deployment to Darfur. [146625]

Meg Munn: The proposed mandate is available in the Library of the House: it is contained in the joint report for a hybrid peacekeeping force produced by the African Union (AU) and UN and presented to the Government of Sudan in Addis Ababa on 12 June.

The Peace and Security Council of the AU endorsed the proposed mandate on 22 June. It also requested that the UN Security Council authorise urgently its deployment. We are preparing a UN Security Council Resolution with other Security Council members that will mandate the force.

Uganda: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to President Museveni of Uganda following the President's statement that the UK was responsible for Zimbabwe's economic and social problems. [146595]

Meg Munn: We are not aware that President Museveni has recently made such a statement.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney), the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, gave to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llywd) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 225W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what views have been expressed by *(a)* the London Development Agency and *(b)* other advisers on the redevelopment of the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill. [143077]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Medical Research Council (MRC). I have asked MRC's Chief Executive Professor Colin Blakemore, to reply to the hon. Member.

HEALTH

Chiltern Health Profile 2007

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology was used to calculate the ecological footprint of a Chiltern resident as set out in his Department's publication, Chiltern Health Profile 2007. [146288]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The ecological footprint is an indicator of ecological sustainability from a consumption perspective. It represents the environmental cost (resource use and environmental degradation) associated with people's lifestyle choice and the goods and services they buy.

The use of this sustainability indicator as the basis for policy and decision making at local authority level is in line with the United Kingdom's Government Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (March 2005).

The calculations are produced by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) based at the University of York using the UK National Footprint Account and a standardised environmental-economic method of calculation applied to all local authorities, based on local expenditure data.

SEI uses an environmental input-output model to calculate the Ecological Footprint (EF) of local authority Areas in the UK. A short description of the method can be found at:

www.sei.se/reap/national.php

A detailed description of the EF Indicator is at:

www.communityhealthprofiles.info/indicators/02EcologicalFootprintIndicator.php

The Stockholm Environment Institute in York can provide specific information concerning the Chiltern Health Profile 2007 and can be contacted at

www.sei.se

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what bio-medical research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Medical Research Council has funded into the cause or causes of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [146602]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. That devolved funding is supporting a body of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) research. Details are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research

The new National Institute for Health Research South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry biomedical Research Centre, funded by the Department, will undertake research on CFS/ME.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. During the period in question, MRC has funded seven research studies on CFS/ME, five of which are of direct relevance to the condition, and two related to it but of lesser relevance.

Although not currently funding any research specifically related to the biological effects of CFS/ME, the MRC remains committed to funding scientific research into all aspects of CFS/ME including evaluations of other treatments and studies into the biological basis of the condition. The MRC always welcome high-quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality.

Health Profiles: Local Authorities

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the indicator ecological footprint included in Health Profiles of Local Authorities issued by the Public Health Observatory will be used by local government and primary care trusts to tackle health inequalities and improve health. [146787]

Dawn Primarolo: The ecological footprint indicator may be used in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of Local Authorities. It may be used in local area agreements and community strategies developed by local strategic partnerships; and primary care trusts (PCTs) may use it or refer to it in their local delivery plans and annual public health reports.

Local authorities are responsible for strategic community planning and they have a statutory responsibility to undertake sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental impact assessments for local development frameworks. Local authorities influence environmental impacts and therefore the health of the local population, for example, through measures such as increasing recycling/re-using, less individual travel, controlled handing of environmentally harmful materials.

Public sector organisations, including local authorities and PCTs, are increasingly recognising their own ecological impact in terms of the business resources they consume and the carbon they produce as part of their daily business. They are continually developing ways of reducing their footprint.

A detailed description of the ecological footprint indicator is available at:

www.communityhealthprofiles.info/indicators/02EcologicalFootprintIndicator.php

IVF

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women have been denied IVF treatment on the grounds of the 'need of that child for a father' in accordance with 13 (5) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 in each year since 1990. [147178]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Liverpool City Council (Prohibition of Smoking in Places of Work) Bill

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of the Liverpool City Council (Prohibition of Smoking in Places of Work) Bill on Government policy and legislation to ban smoking in enclosed public places in England. [146566]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government recognise the significant contributions and efforts that Liverpool city council and its partners have made in providing protection from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Meat: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with trading standards representatives on the regulation of businesses which insert water and protein into meat. [146619]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has been working closely with trading standards officers to ensure that consumers are not misled about the chicken they buy.

Enforcement officers are encouraged to take action where food business operators are found to be selling chicken that does not comply with food safety and labelling legislation.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Meat

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems are in place for testing imported meat for MRSA contamination. [146481]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* All meat produced in the EU is prepared in accordance with hygiene regulations and in such a manner as to reduce bacterial load. There are no systems in place in the United Kingdom to test meat for MRSA from approved establishments.

Following advice on appropriate cleaning and the handling, storage and cooking of meat is important in preparing food safely and preventing/minimising the risk of contamination by micro-organisms.

Smoking: Elderly

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 55 years he expects to give up smoking as a result of the public smoking ban. [146453]

Dawn Primarolo: The costs and benefits of the new smokefree law are set out in the final regulatory impact assessment published by the Department in December 2006 and is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=121535&Rendition=Web

The primary aim of smokefree legislation is to provide protection from secondhand smoke within enclosed public places and workplaces. No specific assessment has been made regarding the number of people over the age of 55 years who are anticipated to give up smoking as a result of the implementation of the legislation.

Smoking: Television

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether accommodation used in reality television programmes are enclosed public places for the purposes of the forthcoming smoking ban; and if he will make a statement. [146904]

Dawn Primarolo: An assessment would need to be made on the particular circumstances of the premises. Such premises would be smokefree if they are a public place or workplace under the provisions in Section 2 of the Health Act 2006 (c.28). Premises that are open to the public or are a workplace will need to be smokefree within enclosed or substantially enclosed parts, as defined in the Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006.

vCJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on vCJD, what the name is of each prototype vCJD assay that is being evaluated; which body is carrying out each evaluation; what the purpose is of each evaluation; on what date each evaluation began; on what date his Department expects each evaluation to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [147424]

Dawn Primarolo: The prototype assays under evaluation are not named and are for research use only.

The evaluation is part of collaborative work between NHS Blood and Transplant, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control. This evaluation is to determine whether available prototype assays for the detection of abnormal prions in blood perform with the sensitivity and specificity that is required for their use in a large-scale study of the prevalence of abnormal prions in the British population.

The notice of the HPA's tender for prototype assays for evaluation was issued (in the *Official Journal* of the European Union) on 2 February 2007. The evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Electricity: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how frequently real time electricity displays will communicate data to customers under his proposals to extend smart-metering; whether the electricity displays will offer different tariffs depending on the time of day; and if he will make a statement. [146839]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Self-standing real-time display devices will provide real-time information to customers about electricity consumption and cost. Smart meters, in conjunction with display devices designed to work with them, could support a range of time-of-day tariffs.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the smart-meters proposed in his Energy White Paper will be fully broadband enabled; and what contribution he expects that the use of such technology will make in reducing *(a)* losses in the network and *(b)* the need for peak power. [146840]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Energy suppliers are undertaking a programme of work, overseen by Ofgem, to address the issue of inter-operability of smart meters. This work includes an examination of the communications systems, including but not limited to broadband, that underpin smart meters. Smart meters can offer benefits such as peak-load shifting and maintaining of the network on the basis of a variety of communication technology. The Government will be considering these issues as part of their forthcoming consultation on billing and metering.

Energy: EU Action

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the EU on a common energy policy. [147003]

Malcolm Wicks: The former Minister for Energy and officials have been in regular contact with the Commission and their counterparts in other member states to discuss the proposals in the Commission's Strategic Energy Review of January. These proposals have widespread support across the EU and have been endorsed by the European Council. We now look forward to the Commission producing proposals for legislation.

We fully support the Commission's proposals, which will promote the further development of a competitive, sustainable and secure European energy market to the benefit of consumers.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how many civil servants, and of what pay grade, worked on restructuring the low carbon buildings programme. [142454]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* In making a decision on restructuring the low carbon buildings programme Phase 1 household stream, Ministers were primarily advised by the microgeneration team.

At the time, the microgeneration team consisted of five civil servants (two range 10s and three range 8s). More senior civil servants were involved as necessary.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry why his Department has cut the maximum limit for grants offered to householders through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [145238]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has proved successful in demonstrating the suitability of microgeneration at the domestic level. Another key objective of the programme is to see the cost of technologies fall. We took the opportunity of the additional £6 million announced for the household stream in Budget 2007 to restructure the scheme, following a wide consultation. We removed the monthly cap and lowered the £2,500 grant cap per household as this provides a simple and fair way of allocating funds to installations across all technologies, helping to ensure we use the limited funds available to support as many household microgeneration installations as possible.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and what the forecast budget is for 2007-08. [145498]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme has an £86 million budget over three years. The programme was launched in April 2006, with no formal budgets for specific years.

Phase 1 is a £36 million programme, which allocated £10,598,504 in financial year ending 30 March 2007. The remainder is forecast to be allocated in financial year 2007-08, less programme management fees.

Phase 2 is a £50 million programme. We forecast a budget of £20,000,000 in financial year 2007-08.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent under phase one of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in the UK in each month since the scheme began; and if he will make a statement. [145539]

Malcolm Wicks: At 27 June 2007, only one payment under Stream 2 of Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has been paid. That was for £9,362 in the East of England, paid in November 2006. The following tables provide the data for the Communities (now closed to new applicants) and Householders streams.

Communities, by region	*Date*	*Paid (£)*
South West	February 2006	18,921
South East	November 2006	2,050
South West	March 2007	11,650
Wales	March 2007	1,772
London	May 2007	19,005
South East	May 2007	4,670
East of England	June 2007	12,754
Yorks and Humber	June 2007	11,026
East Midlands		0

Communities, by region	Date	Paid (£)
Eastern		0
North East		0
North West		0
Northern Ireland		0
Scotland		0
West Midlands		0
Grand total		81,848

	Householders					
Date	East Midlands	East of England	London	North East	North West	Northern Ireland
	250,149	562,206	380,883	85,983	233,164	94,944
2006						
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	400	—	—	—
July	—	400	—	—	—	—
August	2,800	3,200	800	800	1,200	5,000
September	5,600	13,430	15,650	400	2,000	—
October	7,070	32,940	19,350	—	2,400	6,281
November	15,256	27,675	36,751	4,000	13,694	3,720
December	13,280	38,944	16,055	400	8,113	—
2007						
January	16,010	44,117	26,405	6,200	31,425	46,600
February	19,036	65,814	57,607	14,456	24,428	16,600
March	39,062	76,211	58,416	25,156	24,820	12,547
April	46,110	63,008	34,981	12,600	23,606	1,500
May	70,172	146,440	71,209	19,571	66,474	2,697
June	15,754	50,027	43,262	8,400	35,004	—

	Householders						
Date	Northern Ireland	Scotland	South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	Yorks and Humber
	94,944	192,630	1,256,040	862,757	282,830	271,311	233,152
2006							
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	400	400	400	—	—
July	—	—	400	800	400	2,000	—
August	5,000	6,000	29,630	10,000	2,000	10,695	10,080
September	—	—	18,400	14,300	6,400	2,000	3,200
October	6,281	15,000	93,344	21,740	28,710	10,355	6,170
November	3,720	6,070	83,403	61,636	11,800	18,331	16,240
December	—	20,951	97,158	48,750	13,837	25,934	17,480
2007							
January	46,600	25,520	101,817	43,737	15,496	20,397	12,336
February	16,600	9,743	122,881	124,411	38,704	25,423	24,02S
March	12,547	30,856	139,374	122,142	54,869	36,555	46,722
April	1,500	24,054	143,296	94,816	25,796	56,798	32,721
May	2,697	39,436	318,021	242,318	64,081	41,842	52,194
June	—	15,000	107,916	77,706	20,338	20,980	11,981
Total							4,765,057

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent to date under phase two of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [145541]

Malcolm Wicks: At 5 pm on 26 June 2007, the expenditure under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was £2,006.50, which was an interim claim for a project in the East of England.

Real-time national and regional data on both fund allocation and expenditure are available on the programme website:

www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to increase funding under phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [145728]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 was launched in April 2006 with a £30.0 million budget. In Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced a further £6.0 million for household stream of the programme, as a final tranche of funding for Phase One to aid the transition to a more mature market for microgeneration.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans the Department has to raise the cap on grants per household under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme; and if he will make a statement. [145729]

Malcolm Wicks: Since Budget 2007, the Householder stream of Phase 1 has been restructured, following discussions with key stakeholders. It was re-launched on 29 May 2007. As part of the restructuring, the grant cap was lowered to £2,500, as this provides a simple and fair way of allocating funds to installations across all technologies, helping to ensure we use the limited funds available to support as many household microgeneration installations as possible.

We will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments. However, once the funds are fully allocated, this form of grant support for householders is expected to cease.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region of the UK in each month since the scheme has been operating; and if he will make a statement. [145753]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* At 5 pm on 26 June 2007, the expenditure under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programmes was £2,006.50, which was an interim claim for a project in the East of England paid in June 2007.

Real-time national and regional data on both fund allocation and expenditure are available on the programme website: www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has not yet been allocated; and if he will make a statement. [145754]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is a £36.0 million programme.

At 27 June 2007, Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme had allocated £16,394,070. The remainder, less programme management fees, remains to be allocated.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Department expects all the funding under Phase 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [145755]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 was launched in April 2006 with a £30 million budget. In Budget 2007, a further £6 million was made available for the household stream. In May 2007, the household stream was re-launched following restructuring. In removing the monthly cap and making other changes, we cannot predict future demand with certainty. We will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments. To ensure projects have sufficient time to complete we expect to allocate the majority of funding for Stream 2 projects in the first 18 months of the programme.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much money under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has not yet been allocated; and if he will make a statement. [145756]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* At 5pm on 26 June 2007, £1,688,839.81 of the £50,000,000 Low Carbon Buildings Programme fund had been allocated. The remainder, less programme management fees, has not yet been allocated.

Real-time national and regional data on both fund allocation and expenditure are available on the programme website: www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding was allocated to the low carbon buildings programme for 2006-07. [145802]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 27 June 2007]:* The low carbon buildings programme has an £86 million budget over three years. The programme was launched in April 2006. Funds are not allocated on a yearly basis.

Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (i) what steps the Government have taken since 1997 to encourage mortgage lenders to offer flexible types of loan; [145499]

(2) what steps the Government have taken since 1997 to encourage mortgage lenders to develop and market insurance policies to protect buyers and sellers against gazumping and gazundering. [145500]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has a competitive and diverse mortgage market, which includes flexible mortgage products. The flexible mortgage market has grown since the late 1990s. Recent research (2004) suggests that 21 per cent. of borrowers have mortgages with flexible features. Whether or not a lender decides to offer a specific product is a matter of commercial judgment for the firm in question.

The Government considers that, in an open and competitive insurance market, it is for insurers to choose what products and services they wish to offer.

The FSA commenced regulation of first charge residential mortgages in October 2004, and regulation of general insurance in January 2005.

FSA regulation helps people to make informed choices about their financial future and offers valuable consumer protections.

Mothers: Flexible Working

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what work he is undertaking to promote flexible working hours for new mothers. [147148]

Mr. McFadden: In April 2003, the Government introduced the right to request flexible working for parents of children under the age of six, or 18 for disabled children. The law has been a success, and has been particularly helpful for mothers. For example, 47 per cent. of new mothers now work flexi-time compared to just 17 per cent. in 2002. In addition, the proportion of new mothers who have changed their employer when returning to work has halved from 41 per cent. in 2002 to 20 per cent. (Maternity and Paternity Rights Survey of Employees 2005).

The Government aim to implement the right to request flexible working for parents in a manner which fits with the needs of a high employment flexible labour market economy. The Government are working closely with employers, who are leading the way in addressing the causes of the gender gap with projects which include supporting mothers returning to work and creating better quality opportunities for staff working part-time. 115 organisations, from both the public and private sectors, have signed up as exemplar employers.

More generally, the Government encourage all types of flexible working across the work force by providing detailed guidance and promoting the benefits and encouraging the sharing of best practice. Business Link also provides practical support and advice for employers on starting, maintaining and growing a business. Employers and employees can also access advice from the ACAS website and telephone helpline.

Sun Beds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what legislation covers *(a)* the sale of tanning equipment to private individuals for use in the home and *(b)* the permitted age for buying such equipment. [146995]

Malcolm Wicks: The legislation regulating the safety of tanning equipment sold to individuals is the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994 (S.I.1994 No.3260).

There are no constraints on age limits under this legislation.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 July 2007

WALES

Prisoners' Children

8. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussion he has had with the First Minister on the provision of support for children in Wales whose mothers are in prison. [146380]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and my predecessor have held regular discussions with Assembly Government colleagues on a range of matters affecting Wales, including prisons. I intend to follow in the same vein.

Barnett Formula

9. **Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister in Wales on the working of the Barnett formula as it applies to public funding in Wales. [146381]

Mr. Hain: I meet regularly with the First Minister and discuss a wide range of issues.

Prescriptions

10. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has held with the Welsh First Minister on prescriptions written in England being filled in Wales. [146382]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My predecessor had frequent discussions with Welsh Ministers on all issues, including health.

Welsh patients benefit from the Welsh Assembly Government's policy of free prescriptions for all, and English patients pay the apt fee for England, whichever side of the border they have their prescriptions dispensed.

GP Services

11. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has held with Welsh Assembly Ministers on funding for the treatment of English patients registered with Welsh GPs. [146383]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My predecessor had regular meetings with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services, where cross border treatment of NHS patients were discussed, among other issues. I will continue to hold such meetings.

Community Policing

12. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the development of community policing in North Wales. [146384]

Mr. Hain: This Government have invested huge sums in extra policing and community safety, and delivered large numbers of extra police officers. As a result of our policies, crime has fallen.

We are committed to ensuring that every community will have a Neighbourhood Policing team by April 2008.

North Wales police is on track to meet this target.

Public Expenditure

13. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the level of public expenditure per head of population is in Wales in 2007-08. [146385]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Figures for total identifiable public expenditure per head in Wales are published retrospectively by the Treasury as a Command Paper. Figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1289W, on Departments: manpower, how many staff in his Department are classed as without posts. [146909]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146976]

Mr. Hain: The only readily available information is for financial year 2006-07. Three members of Wales Office staff were awarded non-pensionable bonuses. The total cost was £1,000.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146928]

Mr. Hain: Provisionally one, which is currently being appealed.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147060]

Mr. Hain: This information is not held centrally and obtaining it could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussion he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the economic benefits for Wales arising out of the introduction of regional pay in the public sector. [147294]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is essential that all public sector workers receive a fair rate of pay wherever they live. Pay reflects the individual circumstances facing each workforce, for instance recruitment and retention, operational circumstances, local labour market considerations, pay modernisation and the value of the total reward package. With major Welsh towns and cities like Cardiff, Newport and Swansea now enjoying increased prosperity and a booming property market, Wales is not necessarily one single labour market.

PRIME MINISTER

Official Residences: Mr. Prescott

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister whether the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) will be permitted to remain in his official residence in Admiralty House; and on what financial terms. [147435]

The Prime Minister: Following his recent illness, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) is making the necessary arrangements to move out of his official residence.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146341]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's spend on management and other consultants and advisers since 2000 is listed in the table. There have been no consultants who have undertaken work for the Department with a contractual value in excess of £10 million during this period.

Financial year	Management consultants (£)	Other consultants and advisers (£)
2000-01	0	194,075.11
2001-02	0	318,416.80
2002-03	107,299.50	362,181.10
2003-04	10,170.94	463,614.41
2004-05	21,067.25	622,857.02
2005-06[1]	159,188.14	1,002,117.89
2006-07[2]	67,955.11	783,223.86

[1] Amended to reflect reclassification of some costs to departmental administration costs
[2] Subject to finalisation of resource accounts

Football: Primary Education

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on increasing participation in football in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [147393]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are committed to increasing the amount of physical education and sport in schools through the National School Sport Strategy, delivered jointly by the DCMS and the DCSF. Football is one of 25 sports helping to deliver this strategy.

The 2005-06 School Sport survey found that 99 per cent. of primary schools offered football during the last year and that 79 per cent. of primary schools have a link with a football club.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the gaming industry and *(b)* local authorities on the deadline for premises licence applications in order to secure continuation rights. [147467]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Industry representatives have raised this issue informally with the Department. Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) supports the existing timetable and we have received no such representation from local authorities.

Gaming Machines: Standards

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to permit the pre-testing of gaming machines prior to the implementation of the new machine categories provided for in the Gambling Act 2005. [147466]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The power to test gaming machines for compliance with gaming machine technical standards rests with the Gambling Commission. Machines must be tested in line with the Commission's testing strategy, to be published before 1 September 2007. The Commission has provisionally approved a number of test houses to carry out testing, and where tests of certain gaming machines will be required, those tests may be commenced prior to 1 September or completed during a reasonable time-frame set by the Commission.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the value of land at the Olympic site which will be available for resale after hosting the Olympic games in 2012 at current prices. [146246]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 2 July 2007]*: I have been asked to reply as Minster for the Olympics.

I refer the hon. Member to my written statement to the House on 27 March 2007, and the revised memorandum of understanding which has now been agreed with the Mayor. Copies of the memorandum have been deposited in the Library of the House. This shows details of the amounts we expect to be recovered from the sale of land acquired by the London Development Agency for the purposes of delivering the Olympic and Paralympic games, and how these funds will be allocated.

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding was provided to Sport England North East Region in each of the last five years; and what the projected funding allocation is for the 2008-09 financial year. [147452]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table provides details of funding provided to Sport England North East region in each of the last five years:

£ million

Sport England North East	*Exchequer*	*Lottery*
2003-04	0.3	7.9
2004-05	0.5	11.4
2005-06	0.8	10.6
2006-07	0.8	7.6
2007-08	0.7	3.2
Totals	3.1	40.7

The projected funding for 2008-09 financial year will not be known until the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on Departments: Advertising, under what terms the checklist for the travellers website www.fco.gov.uk/travel and its paper equivalent carry advertisements for commercial insurance companies. [147353]

Meg Munn: The website www.fco.gov.uk/travel is the home page for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Know Before You Go (KBYG) Campaign. The campaign is aimed at encouraging British travellers to prepare better before going overseas. Companies and businesses can apply to become members of the campaign and as a part of that membership they have an entry and logo displayed through a link from:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel

The campaign employs a professional partnership marketing company, which develops a range of arrangements (within agreed guidelines), with partner organisations to get travel safety messages across to the public. As part of these arrangements, partner companies have been offered the opportunity to place their logos on the back of some KBYG leaflets. No financial exchange takes place, but the companies are required to provide the equivalent space in value on their own publicity materials.

One example of this is our partnership with The Halifax, whose logo appears on the "Checklist for Travellers" which, is distributed with each UK passport issued. In return for this, the FCO has secured wide exposure for travel safety messages in The Halifax's online and printed travel-related communications tools, such as travel newsletters, advice pages, and travel insurance documents.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 305W, to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson), on Iraq, what the total contractual costs of private security companies contracted to his Department and operating in Iraq were in each year between 2003 and the latest date for which figures are available. [147295]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by my hon. Friend is provided as follows:

	Value (£ per annum)	*Purpose*
2003-04	16,800,000	Static and Mobile Security
2004-05	49,500,000	Static and Mobile Security
2005-06	47,800,000	Static and Mobile Security
2006-07	30,400,000	Static and Mobile Security

Year: 2004-07

Value: £19,900,000

Purpose: Provision of Police Mentors and Advisers to the Government

The information above covers contracts put in place by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with private security companies for services in Iraq. The figures reflect the contract values concerned and not the actual spend. Many of these contracts cover other Government Departments. Where this is the case, proportional costs are recovered accordingly.

Saudi Arabia: BAE Systems

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were received by her Department about the Al-Yamamah military contract in the three months prior to the announcement that the Serious Fraud Office would end its investigation into the contract. [146761]

Dr. Howells: In the three months prior to the decision by the Director of the Serious Fraud Office to halt its investigation into BAE Systems, we continued to have talks with Saudi government officials on many subjects including the Al-Yamamah programme.

Primary responsibility for supporting the export of UK defence equipment and services lies with the Ministry of Defence.

Sierra Leone: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to ensure that elections in Sierra Leone are free and fair; for how long he expects international observers to remain in Sierre Leone; and whether they will remain there throughout the election process. [146931]

Meg Munn: We are funding a £3 million programme of electoral support to help ensure free and fair elections. This consists of support for international observers and a coalition of national election monitors, the 'National Elections Watch', which intends to host observers in every polling station in Sierra Leone; training for political parties; addressing the gender disparity surrounding elections; and strengthening the capacity of national and local media to cover the elections. We have also committed £4 million to the UN Development Programme's "basket fund", which finances Sierra Leone's National Electoral Commission and contributes to the cost of the elections. In addition, our high commission in Freetown is working with the full range of political and civil society to support free and credible elections. It is essential that Sierra Leoneans should be able to participate fully in the elections and that the result should reflect their choices.

On present plans the EU will send 28 long term observers from 15 July to 16 September; 42 short term observers from 6-16 August and, should there be a second round of voting in the presidential elections, 36 short term observers from 2-13 September. We are looking forward to contributing candidates as both short and long term observers.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI), an international non-governmental organisation with expertise on electoral issues, will send 35-40 short term observers who will stay for one week, including election week, and seven short term observers who will stay for one week in mid-July. NDI has already deployed six long term observers who will stay until the end of August. NDI's observers are being part-funded by the Department for International Development. UK Government election observers will also be deployed for the critical phases of the electoral process and for the elections themselves.

Sudan: Armed Forces

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK is making to the Government of Sudan on its commitment under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to withdraw Sudanese armed forces from Upper Nile and Unity States by 9 July 2007. [147484]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* As chair of the Security Working Group of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the UK is in regular dialogue with both parties on monitoring and assisting implementation of their security obligations in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Despite some delays, both sides remain committed to meeting their obligations.

Sudan: Oil

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government intend to work with their counterparts in the UN to introduce a Darfur oil trust fund. [147441]

Meg Munn: We welcome the proposal from the Aegis Trust for an oil trust fund. This could be an option for consideration in the future to put further pressure on the Government of Sudan to meet its commitments on Darfur. As with other measures, we need to carefully consider its impact on the economy and poverty reduction in the whole of Sudan, and on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), agreed between North and South Sudan in 2005. Oil revenues are key to delivering the CPA's peace dividend across Sudan. The UK's policy remains focused on smart and targeted multilateral sanctions.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the timetable is for the full deployment of the combined African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force to Sudan. [147440]

Meg Munn: The UN and African Union (AU) are negotiating the timetable for the deployment of the joint AU-UN hybrid force for Darfur, accepted by the Sudanese Government on 12 June. We are pressing both parties to agree on the earliest possible date.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide details of the proposed mandate for the African Union-United Nations deployment to Darfur. [147444]

Meg Munn: The proposed mandate of the joint African Union (AU)—UN peacekeeping force for Darfur is contained in the report produced by the AU and UN and presented to the Government of Sudan in Addis Ababa on 12 June. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House. The Peace and Security Council of the AU endorsed this proposed mandate on 22 June. We are preparing a UN Security Council Resolution, with other Security Council members, that will mandate the UN elements of the force.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on incursion into the Uganda High Court by security forces to re-arrest suspects previously given bail; and if he will make a statement. [147248]

Meg Munn: The violence used by the Government forces at the Uganda High Court on 1 March to frustrate the decision of the High Court to grant the People's Redemption Army (PRA) suspects bail has grave implications for the independence of the judiciary, respect for the rule of law and human rights in Uganda.

We continue to raise our concerns about the detention of the PRA suspects with the Government of Uganda. Most recently our High Commissioner in Kampala raised this with President Museveni on 10 May.

We understand that court proceedings are due to resume later this month. We will continue to make further representations to the Government of Uganda calling for court proceedings to be expedited in a fair and just manner.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent advice she has had from TRANSEC on current hand baggage restrictions, with particular reference to the number of pieces of hand baggage allowed for air travellers departing UK airports. [146278]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current security regulations are kept under constant review. The Department has currently placed a limit of one cabin bag per passenger in order to manage the current very real threat to aviation in the UK. However, we have made clear our readiness to remove the one bag limit once industry—collectively—is confident of its ability to deliver security effectively without it.

Bus Services: Concessions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals lodged in 2006 by bus operators under the concessionary travel appeal system in England have been successful; how many appeals were lodged in 2006; how much was awarded to successful appeals lodged in 2006; how many appeals are outstanding from 2006; and if she will make a statement. [146467]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 38 appeals lodged with the Secretary of State by bus operators disputing the reimbursement arrangements in travel concession authorities in England for 2006-07 were successful. Over 60 appeals were lodged in that year, although 15 of those were subsequently withdrawn and four were rejected. Two of the appeals lodged in the autumn are deferred until July following requests from both operators and the travel concession authority to allow time for local negotiation.

It would not be appropriate to comment on the individual determinations of appeals. Further information may be sought from the relevant bus operators and travel concession authorities.

Bus Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the provision of rural bus services of the real terms reduction in the rural bus subsidy grant to Cumbria county council in 2007-08. [146708]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* In 2007-08 Cumbria will receive £1.6 million in rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG). This is a 2.39 per cent. increase over the previous year, which is the same percentage increase received by all other local authorities receiving the grant. RBSG allocations for 2007-08 total £55.6 million. This is a 71 per cent. increase in cash terms since the grant was introduced in 1998.

Whether an authority's allocation represents a reduction in real terms depends on the changes in contract prices that authority faces during the course of the year. This varies from area to area. It is for each authority to review their expenditure on bus support, taking account of local priorities and all the resources available to them which includes, in addition to RBSG, revenue support grant from central Government.

Bypasses: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make available funding to help finance the construction of an eastern bypass for Kettering. [146392]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Northamptonshire county council, as the local highway authority, is responsible for preparing any proposals for an eastern bypass of Kettering. Should the council decide to promote such a scheme, it would need to obtain the region's agreement to prioritise the scheme for funding within the East Midlands regional funding allocation for major transport schemes.

The council would then need to submit a detailed business case for the scheme, in line with departmental guidance, for consideration by the Department.

Channel Tunnel

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date she expects the Channel Tunnel to reach full capacity for *(a)* freight and *(b)* passengers. [144795]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department currently holds no forecasts on this matter.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information for the number and total amount paid to senior civil service bonus payments within the Department for Transport is only available from 2004 onwards and is as follows:

	Number	Total cost (£)
2004	65	326,000
2005	105	492,000
2006	140	882,000

Under current arrangements, bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment on how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The intention is the best performers receive the biggest bonus payments.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146978]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and total cost of non-pensionable bonuses awarded to member of staff in the Department for Transport in the last three years is as follows:

	Number of bonuses awarded	Total value of these bonuses (£)
2004-05	5,652	1,690,379
2005-06	6,343	2,458,701
2006-07	8,876	4,361,708

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in her Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145983]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The percentage of sick leave taken by staff in the Department that was stress-related in each of the last three years is:

	Percentage
2004	20.6
2005	22.4
2006	17.6

Lorries: Tolls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on tackling competitive distortions in the UK haulier market via a system of national road pricing. [146255]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2114-15W. No decisions have been taken on whether to introduce a national system of road pricing or what form it might take. Such decisions will be taken only on the evidence of established local schemes.

Motorcycles

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she or other Ministers from her Department last met the chairman of the Motorcycle Action Group to discuss policy issues; and when the next such meeting is planned. [146276]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No Ministers from the Department have met with the chairman of the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) and there have been no requests to do so. The former Minister of State, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), had met with senior representatives of MAG in the last six months.

Motorcycles: Electronic Tagging

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is her policy to introduce electronic tagging of motorcycles. [146256]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport currently does not have plans to introduce such a system.

However a small trial of electronic vehicle identification (EVI) technology using electronic tags attached to number plates on both cars and motorcycle number plates took place in 2006.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what co-ordination exists between different regions of the Highways Agency to ensure that motorway lane closures in one region are notified to adjoining areas served by the same motorway; and if she will make a statement. [147442]

Mr. Tom Harris: For planned lane closures such as those required for maintenance activity and major improvements, the Agency has a Network Occupancy Management Process to ensure that roadwork activity is planned and coordinated effectively. As part of this process, the Agency records all this information on a national electronic system called the Schedule of Road Works. This national system is populated by its contractors and can be accessed by planning staff in all regions.

For unplanned lane closures such as those as a result of incidents, the Agency's National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) co-ordinates the strategic response and informs motorists of road closures and implements strategic diversions. The NTCC automatically alerts the corresponding Regional Control Centre (RCC) that it is about to set a specific response plan and also provides information to motorists through the Traffic England website, the Highways Agency Information Line and through travel news media.

Incidents are managed from the Agency's seven RCCs. If the incident affects adjoining regions then the lead RCC will ensure they are notified and co-ordinate a joint response. Incidents of national significance are co-ordinated by a national crisis management team.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice she has given on the use of overhead gantry signs to ensure that motorists using a motorway in one Highways Agency area are warned of carriageway closures in other Highways Agency areas. [147443]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency (HA) have a wide variety of Variable Message Signs (VMS) and fixed message signs designed to give motorists advanced warning of any closures on the motorway

network which could affect their journey. Where an incident occurs that necessitates the closure of a carriageway, the National Traffic Control Centre (NTCC) uses VMS located at key strategic points on the network, across HA areas and regions, to make motorists aware and allow them to make informed decisions about whether to change their route. It is important to note that the NTCC doesn't work on an HA regional or area basis, but sees the network as a whole.

Official Cars: Electric Vehicles

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of Government Car and Despatch Agency vehicles are hybrid electric vehicles. [147151]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At present, 41 per cent. of the Government Car and Despatch Agency's fleet are hybrid electric vehicles.

Railways: South Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation her Department has made of the *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* reliability of trains operated by First Great Western between London and South Wales. [147216]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and First Great Western to address performance issues. Additionally, First Great Western has implemented a 40-point Recovery plan. These are monitored monthly.

In the year to 31 March 2007 First Great Western achieved an average punctuality of 83.2 per cent. across the franchise as a whole.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the standard of First Great Western's train services between London and South Wales. [147217]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport has not undertaken an assessment of the standard of First Great Western's train services. The industry-standard public performance measure (PPM) is used to measure performance of a train operating company (TOC) across the whole of its franchise area, not specific routes in isolation. Passenger surveys are undertaken by Passenger Focus. The results of the latest National Passenger survey were published on 5 June 2007.

Shipping: ELL Action

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with her opposite numbers in other EU states about the EU's consultation paper "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union". [146403]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The former Minister of State, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) recently held a meeting with the Portuguese State Secretary for Defence and Maritime Affairs to discuss this EU consultation and the plans of the Portuguese presidency in addressing its outcome.

In addition, officials have worked closely with those of other EU member states on this matter and have been involved in both formal community working groups and an informal 'friends of the presidency' group.

Traffic Officers: Speed Limits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Highways Agency traffic officers have, in the course of their duties, been *(a)* caught speeding and *(b)* prosecuted for speeding in each of the last 24 months, broken down by region. [147086]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the last 24 months one Highways Agency traffic officer has been caught and prosecuted for speeding while in the course of their duty. This was in the North West Region, where a notice of intended prosecution was issued on 8 May 2007 in relation to an alleged speeding offence on 4 April 2007.

Train Operating Companies: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings her Department has had with train operating companies to discuss pricing structures for the railways: who attended; what the outcomes were; and if she will make a statement. [147870]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has been discussing with the Association of Train Operating Companies about how a simple national fares structure could be introduced, with standardised ticket names, terms and conditions. Discussions are ongoing.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken by UK forces in the Helmand province of Afghanistan to prevent the cultivation of opium. [147138]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK military forces deployed under the international security assistance force contribute to the broader counter-narcotics effort by helping to provide the secure environment in which the rule of law can be applied, reconstruction can take place and legal rural livelihoods can be developed. They are also able to provide support to Afghan led counter-narcotics operations, within the scope of the NATO operational plan. They are not there to carry out eradication themselves.

Aircraft Carriers: France

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends that France will participate in the construction of the UK future aircraft carriers. [144781]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 27 June 2007]:* We have always stressed that co-operation with France through industry-to-industry links may offer potential

benefits to both nations. It has been agreed with France that for co-operation to work, it must deliver cost savings and must do so without delaying UK or French programmes.

Armed Forces: Advisory Services

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to provide independent advisory panels to oversee welfare provision for trainee soldiers; at which barracks panels have been created; what guidance he has given on *(a)* the terms of reference for and *(b)* recruitment of lay persons to serve on such bodies; how the composition of panels is monitored; and what steps he has taken to involve parents of service personnel in an oversight role. [146185]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Independent advisory panels (IAP) have been established across the Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD)'s Phase 1 (Initial Training) and Phase 2 (Special-to-Arm Training) units since 18 January 2006.

IAPs exist in the following ARTD sites:

Phase 1 Training sites	*Phase 2[1]*
Army Foundation College (Harrogate)	Armoured Centre (Bovington)
Army Training Regiment (Bassingbourn)	Royal School of Military Engineering (Chatham and Minley)
Army Training Regiment (Lichfield)	Royal School of Artillery (Larkhill)
Army Training Regiment (Pirbright)	School of Infantry (Catterick)
Army Training Regiment (Winchester)	School of Army Aviation (Middle Wallop)

[1] Including phase 1 and 2 combined sites

The Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration, and the ARTD Staff Leadership School are planning to have IAPs in place during 2007-08.

The terms of reference for IAPs, developed in October 2005, include guidance on recruiting and are as follows:

1. Introduction

As part of the process of implementing the recommendations of the DHALI reports, the Adjutant General has directed Director General Army Recruiting and Training to establish IAPs across the Army's training establishments at either school or regiment level but not both.

2. Aim

The aim of IAPs is to provide an independent, non-statutory source of advice, challenge, encouragement and support to the training establishment in order to exchange information, provide feedback and assist in identifying possible areas for improvement.

3. Roles

IAPs have the following roles:

a. To act as a conduit for external communication for the training establishment to de-mystify the Army's individual training organisation and promote the Army's and training establishment's reputations locally.

b. To act as a source of local feedback on local issues.

c. To act as a "sounding board". They will support and challenge the training establishment by providing advice and encouragement on particular issues (both local and national) raised by the Commandant on an as required basis.

4. Limitations.

The IAP will not override the fundamental Army principle of self-regulation vested in the commanding officer and the higher chain of command. They will have no responsibility for budgets, objective setting, policy or staff selection.

5. Composition

IAPs are non-statutory bodies and their composition will depend on the circumstances for each establishment. IAPs might include opinion formers in the local community, who between them are able to speak with knowledge, credibility and experience on a range of issues that might relate to the operation of the training establishment and the training of young people. Examples might include local teachers, youth workers, social workers, councillors, religious figures (all faiths), policemen/women, businessmen/women, health professionals or sports personalities. The chairperson will be elected by the panel, and will not be a member of the training establishment. IAP membership from the training establishment could be:

a. School Commander/Commanding Officer;

b. Independent Complaints Officer (ICO);

c. Welfare Officer;

d. COS/Adjt to provide the secretarial function.

6. Frequency

IAPs will meet termly (three times a year) or as the School Commander/Commanding Officer and Chairperson decide.

7. Output

IAPs will write an annual report to the School Commander/Commanding Officer, recording key issues raised and action taken.

The ongoing composition of a panel is a matter for the respective chairperson, once elected, in consultation with the respective training establishment and, externally the headquarters of the ARTD.

While parents of service personnel are not specifically identified as potential members of the IAP, they are not excluded, and it is implicit in the Terms of reference (paragraph 3) that an IAP would wish to seek the views of recruits and trainees.

Armed Forces: Catering

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many vacancies there are for chefs in the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Royal Marines. [146958]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table .

Strength and requirement of chefs in the UK regular forces as at 1 April 2007

	RN	*RM*	*Army[1]*	*RAF*
Strength	[2]975	[2]150	2,465	[2]690
Requirement	1,000	155	2,600	600
Surplus/Deficit	[2]-25	[2]-5	[2]-135	[2]90
FY 07/08 recruiting target	120	25	430	30

[1] Army figures are as at 1 March 2007 and include Gurkhas

[2] Denotes provisional. Due to the introduction of a new joint personnel administration system (JPA) data are provisional and subject to review.

Chemicals: Ballast Bank

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide funding for the clean up of chemicals and asbestos at Ballast Bank, Charlestown in Fife. [146777]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The land in question does not belong to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and has not been used as an MOD site. Thus MOD has no responsibility for the current condition of this land, for any activities that may have taken place there in the past, or for funding on carrying out any remediation required.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146099]

Derek Twigg: In the Ministry of Defence there are four members of staff working exclusively on European Security and Defence Policy business in the Directorate for Policy on International Organisations, and one full time member of staff dealing with EU business in the Defence Equipment and Support International Relations Group. A number of other staff throughout the Department are involved for part of their time in a wide range of EU business.

The MOD has nine military and civilian staff in the UK Military Representation to the EU in Brussels and two seconded to the UK diplomatic representation to the EU to work on European Security and Defence Policy. In addition there are 20 MOD military and civilian staff seconded to the European Council General Secretariat, including the European Union Military Staff, and eight to the European Defence Agency.

A functional breakdown of staff roles as requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146498]

Derek Twigg: The numbers and values of annual appraisal related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS) and to fixed term appointees at SCS equivalent level over the past four years are listed in tables 1 and 2. We are only able to provide information from 2003-04 as pay arrangements for SCS staff were changed from 1 April 2002; bonuses for performance during 2002-03 were paid in 2003-04. Bonuses for performance in 2006-07 are in the process of agreement through the MOD SCS Pay Committee structure and will be paid in November 2007.

Bonuses are designed to reward those who are deemed to have made the greatest contribution, through specific in-year achievements, to departmental objectives or defence business more widely.

Table 1: bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	Number of bonuses paid	*Value of bonuses paid (£)*
2006-07	181	1,178,500
2005-06	184	918,000
2004-05	136	711,737
2003-04	140	701,221

Table 2: bonuses paid to senior fixed term appointees

	Number of bonuses paid	*Value of bonuses paid (£)*
2006-07	10	73,191
2005-06	10	65,586
2004-05	14	112,329
2003-04	13	86,531

Departments: Travel

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many travel warrants were provided from Abbey Wood to Chippenham in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [146518]

Derek Twigg: A total of 17 rail tickets were issued by the Abbey Wood travel office for the 12 month period 1 July 2006 to 28 June 2007.

Ex-servicemen: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances discharged service personnel can be classed as vulnerable service leavers and eligible for priority housing. [145712]

Derek Twigg: Guidance on vulnerability of former members of the armed forces and their need for priority housing is set out in Chapter 10: Priority Need, paragraphs 10.12 (iv)—10.14 and 10.21—10.23 of the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in July 2006.

People who seek social housing, including service personnel approaching discharge or recently discharged, should apply to their local housing authority to join the waiting list for an allocation of housing under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996

The homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) provides a safety net for people who become homeless in a crisis. Under the legislation local housing authorities must secure suitable accommodation for housing applicants who are homeless through no fault of their own and who fall within a priority need group. This applies to all applicants who are eligible for homelessness assistance, including discharged service personnel.

The priority need groups include, among others, applicants whose household includes a child or pregnant woman and applicants whose household includes a person who is vulnerable in some way. In

2002, the Government extended the priority need groups by Order to include, among others, applicants who are

"vulnerable as a result of... having been a member of Her Majesty's regular naval, military or air forces".

It is a matter of judgment by the local authority whether an applicant's circumstances make him or her vulnerable for the purposes of the legislation. Local authorities must consider whether, when homeless, the applicant would be less able to fend for him or herself than an ordinary homeless person, so that he or she would suffer injury or detriment in circumstances where a less vulnerable person would be able to cope without harmful effects.

The potential vulnerability to homelessness of personnel due to leave the Service would be considered by the individual's resettlement officer as part of the normal discharge process, and referral made to the Joint Service Housing Advice Office as necessary, which can assist with applications for social housing.

Ex-servicemen: Mentally Ill

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British Gulf War I veterans suffering from mental health issues there are in the Stockport area; and what proportion are receiving treatment. [147261]

Derek Twigg: The MOD does not hold this information.

Gibraltar: Police

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association will be consulted in connection with the review of the Gibraltar Services Police. [146673]

Derek Twigg: The Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association (GSPSA) has been consulted about the conduct of the Gibraltar Policing and Security Review, in accordance with established and agreed consultation procedures. The terms of reference for the review were provided to the GSPSA, and to other interested parties, on 4 June 2007. In response to a written request from the GSPSA, an extension to the consultation period on the terms of reference was granted. They subsequently responded on 19 June 2007, and conduct of the review commenced on 20 June 2007.

The GSPSA will also be consulted on emerging conclusions from the review in due course.

Gurkhas

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people applied for service in the Gurkhas in each of the last three years; and what the average selection time was. [146957]

Derek Twigg: Approximately 10,000 young men in Nepal applied to join the British Army as Gurkhas in 2004, with 15,000 applying in 2005 and 2006 respectively. The average selection time takes about 50 days.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be in a position to make a detailed report of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* other aspects of UK involvement with Operation Telic; and if he will make a statement. [147187]

Des Browne: The cost of operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the MOD's annual report and accounts. The total of the annual audited figures for the cost of operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 was £4,026 million. A total estimated cost of £1,002 million for 2006-07 was included in the Spring Supplementary Estimates published in February. Final figures will be published in the MOD's annual report and accounts for 2006-07 in July.

I have updated the House regularly on various aspects of the UK operation in Iraq.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs were incurred for maintenance at the official residence of the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [136611]

Derek Twigg: The table provides maintenance costs for the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland's Official Service Residence from financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Information covering earlier years has not been retained.

	£
2001-02	31,048
2002-03	22,333
2003-04	11,335
2004-05	3,512
2005-06	6,394

Princess Royal Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations from the Deepcut Review report produced by Sir Nicholas Blake, QC, published in March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [147064]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 91-95WS, and 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS. The Ministry of Defence is committed to maintaining the improvements already achieved, and to continuing to address the areas where performance can be improved. Independent inspection of the training environment will continue and our internal training inspection team is working hard to ensure that policy is fully implemented, change sustained and good practice shared.

Territorial Army

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* Territorial Army staff work in the Inspector General's Territorial Army department, broken down by *(a)* appointment and *(b)* location. [146756]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The following table shows those military staff who provide dedicated support to commander regional forces (CRF) in his capacity as Inspector General Territorial Army (IGTA). All appointments are located at HQ Land Command in Wilton, Salisbury.

Appointment	*Status*
Deputy Inspector General Territorial Army (DIGTA)	Territorial Army
Staff Officer 2 (SO2) to DIGTA	Territorial Army
TA Colonel	Territorial Army
Colonel Territorial Army Media and Communications	Territorial Army
SO1 TA Projects	Territorial Army
Chief of Staff Regional forces	Regular
Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff Regional Forces and Territorial Inspectorate	Regular
SO2 Territorial Army (A) Plans	Regular
SO2 Territorial Army (B) Management Information Systems Plans	Regular
SO2 Territorial Army (C) Projects	Territorial Army
SO2 Territorial Army (D) Projects	Regular
SO2 Territorial Army Media Operations	Territorial Army

Territorial Army: Recruitment

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the strength of the various sections of the Territorial Army have seen active deployment, broken down by *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks. [146766]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Territorial Army (TA) is the reserve of "first choice" and its personnel are currently providing crucial support to the Regular Forces on operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. Since January 2003 around 13,000 volunteers from the TA have been mobilised on overseas operations. The ability of the TA to meet its operational requirement is closely monitored. However, there is no requirement to hold or maintain information centrally in the format requested and such data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

World War II: Military Decorations

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce a campaign medal for the servicemen and women involved in the Bomber Command campaign in the second world war; and if he will make a statement. [147304]

Derek Twigg: The creation of medals is the prerogative of the Sovereign. The Sovereign takes advice from the Government of the day, who, in turn, are advised by the inter-departmental, non-political Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (known as the HD Committee), on which the armed forces are represented. In the case of campaign medals for service during the second world war, the issue was discussed exhaustively by those in command at the time and by the HD Committee. Those who served in Bomber Command during the second world war could qualify for one of the Stars instituted for campaign service for example the 1939-45 Star, the much prized Aircrew Europe Star or the France and Germany Star. World war two campaign medals were instituted for periods of military service in specified geographic areas and did not relate to individual battles, operations or military commands. The HD Committee has made it clear on many occasions that it will not revisit cases for service performed many years previously or where medals already exist for specified periods of service, both of which apply for service in Bomber Command.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued since the enactment of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Hertfordshire police force area, *(c)* the Borough of Dacorum and *(d)* Hemel Hempstead constituency. [146970]

Mr. Coaker: The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 received Royal Assent on 20 November. The number of ASBOs issued in 2004 and 2005 (latest available) are:

Area	*Number of ASBOs issued*[1]
England	7,162
Hertfordshire police force area	112
Borough of Dacorum	12
Hemel Hempstead constituency	n/a[2]

n/a = not available.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] ASBO data are not available at levels below local government authority areas.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [147269]

Mr. Coaker: ASBO breach data are currently available from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000 and are available at Criminal Justice System area level only. The available information is given in the table.

The number of ASBOs proven in court to have been breached[1,2] for the first time between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005

CJS area	ASBOs breached
Avon and Somerset	98
Bedfordshire	28
Cambridgeshire	30
Cheshire	87
Cleveland	70
Cumbria	66
Derbyshire	44
Devon and Cornwall	46
Dorset	46
Durham	53
Dyfed Powys	16
Essex	79
Gloucestershire	39
Greater London	461
Greater Manchester	654
Gwent	42
Hampshire	126
Hertfordshire	50
Humberside	94
Kent	12
Lancashire	161
Leicestershire	57
Lincolnshire	19
Merseyside	126
Norfolk	38
North Wales	71
North Yorkshire	34
Northamptonshire	7
Northumbria	127
Nottinghamshire	102
South Wales	54
South Yorkshire	119
Staffordshire	61
Suffolk	63
Surrey	47
Sussex	111
Thames Valley	70
Warwickshire	38
West Mercia	84
West Midlands	316
West Yorkshire	376
Wiltshire	24
England and Wales	4,246

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table in the area of breach.

[2] ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. In this table ASBOs are counted once only at the time they were first breached. This table excludes ASBOs which were initially breached before 1 January 2003, regardless of whether they were breached again between 2003 and 2005.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Antisocial Behaviour: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the levels of perception of anti-social behaviour in *(a)* Greater Manchester, *(b)* Stockport and *(c)* Cheadle in each of the last three years; and if she make a statement. [147268]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey shows that the proportion of the public who perceive a high level of antisocial behaviour in the Greater Manchester Police Force area, which includes Greater Manchester, Stockport and Cheadle, fell from 21 per cent. in 2003-04 to 20 per cent. in 2004-05 and to 1.9 per cent. in 2005-06.

Asylum: Qualifications

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research she has commissioned into the skills and qualifications held by *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* refugees. [146967]

Mr. Byrne: The Department has not commissioned research on the skills and qualifications of asylum seekers.

The Department has commissioned research on the skills and qualifications of refugees, which is reported in 'Skills Audit of Refugees', published in 2004 (Home Office Online Report 37/04). Link to publication:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/rdsolr3704.pdf

Information on the skills and qualifications of refugees is currently being collected in a Home Office survey to evaluate the pilot phase of SUNRISE (Strategic Upgrade of National Refugee Integration Services) and also in research into the Gateway Protection Programme. This research is not yet at a stage to be reported.

Burglary: Northumbria

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic burglaries there were in *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East and *(b)* Northumbria police authority area in each of the last 10 years. [147449]

Mr. Coaker: Information for the Houghton and Washington, East constituency is not available centrally. The available information relates to the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and the Northumbria police force area and is given in the tables.

Table 1: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police—1996 and 1997

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
1996	n/a	21,409
1997	n/a	17,113

n/a - not available

Table 2: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
1998-99	n/a	15,334
1999-2000	3,311	12,539
2000-01	3,016	11,377
2001-02	2,982	11,244

n/a = not available

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1996 and 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2005-06

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
2002-03	2,962	11,179
2003-04	2,369	10,223
2004-05	1,910	7,897
2005-06	1,353	6,560

Note:

The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crime: Northumbria

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded level of crime was in *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* Northumbria police authority area in each of the last 10 years. [147450]

Mr. Coaker: Information for the Houghton and Washington, East constituency is not available centrally. The available information relates to the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and the Northumbria police force area and is given in the following tables.

Table 1: total offences recorded by the police—1996 and 1997

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
1996	n/a	169,656
1997	n/a	140,166

n/a = not available.

Table 2: total offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
1998-99	n/a	151,298
1999-2000	n/a	142,279
2000-01	30,407	134,777
2001-02	33,259	139,130

n/a = not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1996 and 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: total offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2005-06

	Sunderland CDRP	Northumbria police force area
2002-03	38,196	165,496
2003-04	34,612	157,051
2004-05	30,447	142,122
2005-06	28,429	131,968

Note:

The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimestoppers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had on Crimestoppers; and what steps she is taking to promote and increase awareness of the service; [146579]

(2) how many people were arrested in each of the last five years as a result of information supplied to Crimestoppers. [146580]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of arrests as a result of information supplied to Crimestoppers is not collected centrally by the Home Office. A Home Office evaluation 'Evaluating the impact of Crimestoppers' Home Office Online Report 22/03 stated that for the year 2000 there were 5,423 successful outcomes (arrested, charged or cautioned) approximately 9 per cent. of all actionable calls. However, the actual number of positive results is higher, as there is widespread under-reporting of feedback. The report estimated this figure as close to 9,614.

The former Home Secretary last met the Chief Executive of Crimestoppers on 25 April. The Home Office continues to support Crimestoppers through the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement which runs from 1 December 2004 to 31 March 2008.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146094]

Meg Hillier: Officials throughout the Home Office are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in its International Directorate currently total 19. The Border and Immigration Agency has a European and International Policy Unit, which has a total of 21 staff working on European related matters. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146421]

Mr. Byrne: Senior civil service bonuses reward, and provide incentives for, delivery of key results. Under current arrangements, bonuses are used to reward performance during the year, and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Records of bonus payments made to SCS members are only available from 2002.

2002-03

115 out of 185 SCS staff received performance bonuses. The total costs were £463,552.

2003-04

138 out of 215 SCS staff received performance bonuses. The total costs were £672,409.

2004-05

180 out of 219 SCS staff received performance bonuses. The total costs were £1,187,000.

2005-06

158 out of 232 SCS staff received performance bonuses. The total costs were £1,071,118.

Europol

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on the proposals to provide Europol with access to commercial data in the absence of a specific and credible threat; and if she will make a statement. [146867]

Meg Hillier: At present there are no formal agreements between Europol and public or private entities relating to the provision of commercial data to Europol. The Europol Information System can only be used to process data that relate to persons who are suspected of having committed or suspected of having taken part in a crime in contravention of the national law of that country, or where there are factual indicators that they will commit such an offence.

A new legal instrument to regulate Europol's activities is currently under negotiation in the Justice and Home Affairs Council. In the context of that negotiation, the question of the provision of commercial data to Europol has yet to be discussed. However, the Government's view is that where that would involve the processing of personal data from public or private entities, it must take place exclusively via the Europol national units. The Government also believe where it is reasonable and necessary for Europol to be able to process data there must be adequate safeguards to ensure that such data are relevant for its tasks.

Proof of Age Cards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* availability and *(b)* misuse of fake proof of age cards; and if she will make a statement. [146966]

Mr. Coaker: It is the responsibility of retailers to ensure that they have adequate procedures in place to prevent alcohol being sold to people aged under 18 and that their staff are appropriately trained, to enforce this. Many retailers have now adopted a 'Think 21' policy, where anyone appearing to be under 21 should be asked for identification prior to any sale of alcohol, which will prevent an offence being committed. Valid forms of identification include a passport or a driving licence with a photo.

The Home Office also supports the Proof of Age Standards (PASS) scheme, which establishes a common standard for issuing the various proof of age cards that are available. PASS accredited cards carry a secure hologram which helps retailers to identify genuine proof of age cards. The PASS hologram on a card is the hallmark indicating that the card issuer has passed a stringent audit carried out by Trading Standards Officers and that the card may be relied upon.

Following on from the success of the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns, since May 2007 we have been conducting a national Tackling Under Age Sales of Alcohol Campaign, which is testing whether or not retailers ask for valid identification from potential underage purchasers of alcohol.

Illegal Immigrants: Malta

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial assistance has been given to Malta for tackling illegal African immigrants coming to that country. [147000]

Mr. Byrne: The UK supports Maltese efforts to tackle illegal immigration both bilaterally and through the EU. Last year we sent a Chief Immigration Officer to Malta to assist a Frontex co-ordinated operation with nationality and identity interviewing techniques and a senior official to give advice on returning failed asylum seekers. Also in 2006 a Maltese official was seconded to Border and Immigration Agency for a week to learn about our detention centres. EU funding has recently been obtained for joint returns work with Malta, and the European Commission is currently considering a joint proposal from the UK, Italy and Malta for funding to establish a centre for migration intelligence analysts on Lampedusa and Malta. Malta also receives funding through EU financial instruments such as the European Refugee Fund.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to encourage chief constables to undertake similar exercises to Operation Foist in their areas. [147436]

Mr. Coaker: Operation Foist was an initiative of the Metropolitan Police. Adoption of similar exercises elsewhere is an operational matter for individual chief officers. I understand from the Metropolitan Police that a number of forces have been in touch with queries about the operation with a view to undertaking such measures themselves.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of Operation Foist in the London area. [147437]

Mr. Coaker: Operation Foist was an initiative of the Metropolitan Police that targeted uninsured drivers as a means of improving road safety and reducing criminality. The Metropolitan Police arranged for a review of the initiative's effectiveness to be carried out and I am arranging for a copy of this to be placed in the Library.

Racially Aggravated Offences: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what type of offences with racial motivation were recorded by Wiltshire Constabulary which *(a)* were taken to court and *(b)* resulted in convictions in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [147091]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested.

Recorded crime statistics relate to offences and court proceedings data relate to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and court proceedings data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

The available information relates to racially or religiously aggravated offences and is available from 1999-2000 only. Tables 1 and 2 give the number of offences recorded by the police in Wiltshire. Data on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for all racially and religiously aggravated offences in the Wiltshire police force area are provided in Table 3.

Table 1: Recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police in Wiltshire, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

Offence	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:			
Less serious wounding	10	16	24
Harassment	36	65	67
Common assault	16	14	10
Criminal damage to a dwelling	2	3	9
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	1	9	20
Criminal damage to a vehicle	8	8	15
Other criminal damage	4	3	4

Table 2: Recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police in Wiltshire, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:				
Less serious wounding	22	35	37	37
Harassment	140	147	138	167
Common assault	17	26	13	13
Criminal damage to a dwelling	14	11	7	9
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	20	14	6	17
Criminal damage to a vehicle	12	5	13	8
Other criminal damage	7	6	6	9

Note:
1. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 3: Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for racially and religiously aggravated offences, Wiltshire police force area, 1999 to 2005[1, 2]

	Proceeded against						
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:							
Less serious wounding	1	1	1	1	2	5	3
Harassment	17	16	16	15	26	27	49
Common assault	1	2	3	8	14	9	10
Criminal damage to a dwelling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage to a vehicle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other criminal damage	—	2	—	4	2	4	3

	Found guilty						
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:							
Less serious wounding	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Harassment	10	10	12	11	20	16	28
Common assault	—	—	1	5	7	4	8

	Found guilty						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Criminal damage to a dwelling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage to a vehicle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other criminal damage	—	1	—	2	1	2	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Road Traffic Act 1988: Powers

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given by her Department to police forces on the exercise of the powers contained in section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988. [147401]

Mr. Coaker: The addition of section 165A to the Road Traffic Act 1988 was one of a number of roads policing measures included in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. Information on all these measures and the powers they confer was given to chief officers of police at the time and has been supplemented subsequently by responses to individual enquiries. How the powers are exercised is an operational matter for individual chief officers and any guidance that might be issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Theft: Bicycles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* sentenced for bicycle thefts in London in each of the last five years. [146974]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Number of persons prosecuted at magistrates courts and sentenced at all courts for bicycle theft, in Greater London, 2001-05[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	Sentenced
2001	143	90
2002	151	106
2003	127	84
2004	132	96
2005	159	121

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

War Criminals

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 144W, on war criminals, (1) whether the police have contacted Vladimir Aleksandrovich Titov (State Counsel of Justice, 2nd Class, Chief of Administration of Surveillance for the Implementation of Laws concerning Federal Security) at the Office of the Procurator General of the Russian Federation, 2nd Tekhnicheskii Pereulok, Moscow, 103793, Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement; [146666]

(2) on war criminals, why bilateral discussions have not taken place with Leitender Oberstaatsanwalt Kurt Schrimm (Director), Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen zur Aufklärung von NS-Verbrechen, Schorndorfer Str. 58, 71638 Ludwigsburg (Federal Republic of Germany). [146669]

Meg Hillier: I understand that the police are aware of these potential sources of information on Nazi war crimes but, in the absence of specific allegations against any named individual in the UK, the police do not have any immediate plans to contact them.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 146W, on war criminals, whether progress has been made with the request for information about the withdrawal of German pensions from residents following the German War Victims Relief Act from Herrn Dr. Eckhard Assman, Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales. [146681]

Meg Hillier: I understand that the Metropolitan Police have still to receive any indication that the German authorities have withdrawn a pension from anyone resident in the UK because of involvement in war crimes during the Second World War.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Autism: Judiciary

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to raise the level of autism awareness among the *(a)* Northern Ireland Prison Service, *(b)* Police Service of Northern Ireland, *(c)* Juvenile Justice Centre and *(d)* Public Prosecution Service staff. [146735]

Paul Goggins: As regards the Prison Service, when individual prisoners are identified as suffering from autistic spectrum disorders healthcare staff will engage with other relevant staff, including safer custody group and residential staff, to provide information about autism and offer guidance on assisting and managing the prisoner. Such prisoners will also be supported by education and psychology staff.

The PSNI has a number of initiatives to raise awareness including:

assistance with the production of the 'Criminal Justice System Autism Guide', which is distributed at PSNI training events;

showing a videoed scenario of a police officer coming into contact with a young person with Aspergers syndrome at officers' diversity training;

giving practical advice on the handling of such situations through role play devised in conjunction with Mencap;

liaison with the promoter of the "Autism Spectrum Disorder" identity card to develop an online awareness raising programme on what this card represents and how to proceed if this card is shown to them.

The Juvenile Justice centre runs regular awareness raising sessions in relation to young people who are on the autism spectrum. These are run in conjunction with Autism NT.

The Public Prosecution Service has limited interaction with the general public and therefore has no specific training intervention.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has assessed the partnership between Dyfed Powys Police, North Wales Police and Autism Cymru to develop an assessment of the needs of people with autistic spectrum disorders; and if he will introduce a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. [146741]

Paul Goggins: PSNI has not been in direct liaison with the Welsh Police authorities on the subject of autistic spectrum disorders. Ongoing efforts are, however, being made to meet the needs of those affected by this condition. Specifically, PSNI has been working with the promoter of the autistic spectrum disorder identity card, developing an on-line programme to raise awareness among officers across the organisation as to what this card represents and how to proceed when it is shown to them. The Police Service remains committed to meeting the needs of those affected by autism and related conditions, and will put in place farther measures as and when required.

Customs Officers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many uniformed HM Revenue and Customs officers are deployed in a full-time capacity in Northern Ireland, excluding intelligence and investigation officers, working on *(a)* fuel smuggling, *(b)* tobacco goods and *(c)* road fuel offences. [146940]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There are 85 uniformed multi-functional HMRC officers deployed in Northern Ireland to meet the full range of HMRC enforcement duties including tackling fuel smuggling, tobacco smuggling and road fuel offences. They are regularly augmented by additional deployments of uniformed HMRC teams from other parts of the UK according to the assessed risk.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146982]

Paul Goggins: In respect of the 2003-04 reporting year, 1,670 staff received a bonus, at a total cost of £475,080;

In respect of the 2004-05 reporting year, 1,731 staff received a bonus, at a total cost of £629,742,

In respect of the 2005-06 reporting year, 1,024 staff received a bonus, at a total cost of £686,425.

Ports

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vessels from *(a)* EU states and *(b)* non-EU were searched by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland ports in each of the last two years. [146942]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of vessels searched by HMRC in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years is two in the year ended 31 March 2006, and one in the year ended 31 March 2007. These vessels were all from non-EU states.

Public Expenditure

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W, what the outcome was of his discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding programmes for Northern Ireland. [146605]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has made available over £51 billion extra spending for Northern Ireland for the next four years to meet the economic and political priorities of an incoming Northern Ireland Executive.

Full details of the financial package were announced by the Chancellor in his statement to Parliament on 8 May 2007, Official Report, column 2WS.

Smuggling: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles were detected smuggling fuel into Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [146943]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of vehicles detected smuggling fuel into Northern Ireland for each of the last three years was:

As at 31 March each year	*Number*
2005	108
2006	67
2007	37

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what total quantity of fuel being smuggled into Northern Ireland was seized in each of the last three years. [146944]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The total quantity of fuel smuggled into Northern Ireland and seized for each of the last three years is as follows:

As at 31 March each year	Litres
2005	301,020
2006	297,260
2007	240,600

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what volume of fuel being smuggled from Northern Ireland to *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* mainland Great Britain was seized in each of the last three years. [146946]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is as follows.

(a) Fuel smuggled from Northern Ireland into the Republic of Ireland is a matter dealt with by the Republic of Ireland authorities. HMRC have no record of seizures made in the Republic of Ireland.

(b) It is not a smuggling offence to transport fuel from Northern Ireland to mainland Great Britain, as this is an internal movement within the United Kingdom. Therefore, no such seizures have been made.

JUSTICE

Asylum: Appeals

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for statutory review of a refusal to grant asylum were submitted in each year since 1997; how many such applications were granted; and how many substantive re-hearings of asylum applications were successful. [146968]

Bridget Prentice: Appeals against a decision to refuse asylum are heard by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) and prior to April 2005 its predecessor, the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA). Appeals are heard by an Immigration Judge (IJ) of the AIT. Volumes of asylum appeals since 1997 were:

Calendar year	Adjudicator/Immigration Judge receipts
1997	22,387
1998	15,442
1999	7,775
2000	28,565
2001	47,906
2002	64,127
2003	70,577
2004	47,002
2005	24,891
2006	14,863
Total	343,535

Following a decision on appeal, the unsuccessful party can apply for it to be reviewed on the ground that the IJ made an error of law. The provisions on review were established under Section 101 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (NIA) Act 2002 and amended by the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) (AITC) Act 2004.

Prior to April 2005, in an appeal to the IAA, the losing party could apply to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal (IAT) for permission to appeal against the decision on a point of law. If refused permission to appeal, the party could apply to the High Court (or the Court of Session in Scotland) for statutory review of that decision, on the ground that the Tribunal had made an error of law. If the High Court granted the application, the case was remitted to the IAT.

Since April 2005, losing parties in appeals to the AIT can apply for review of the decision via a transitional 'filter' provision. Applications are considered by Senior Immigration Judges (SIJs) of the AIT. If the application is granted, the SIJ will make an order requiring the AIT to reconsider its decision. If the application is refused, the party can 'opt in' to the High Court for statutory review, which is decided by a High Court Judge on consideration of the papers. If the High Court grants the application, an order requiring the AIT to reconsider its decision will be made.

Information is provided for the Tribunal's permission/filter applications and for the High Court from 2003 when the statutory review provisions commenced:

Calendar year	IAT permissions/ applications/ AIT filter application decisions (Asylum)	Granted	Asylum applications received at the High Court	Applications allowed
1997	8,128	—	—	—
1998	10,313	—	—	—
1999	9,575	—	—	—
2000	5,488	—	—	—
2001	13,538	4,197	—	—
2002	22,823	6,847	—	—
2003	32,178	11,906	410	93
2004	30,519	9,438	1,840	343
2005	24,711	5,447	3,784	499
2006	8,082	2,291	2,193	172
Total	165,355	—	8,227	—

If an application is granted, either by the AIT or the High Court, the appeal falls to be considered afresh by the AIT. Appeals reconsidered and allowed by the AIT and the IAT, pre-April 2005, were:

Calendar year	IAT Appeals/AIT reconsiderations (Asylum)	Allowed
1997	1,373	—
1998	1,089	—
1999	1,790	—
2000	2,637	—
2001	3,190	447
2002	5,563	668
2003	9,451	1,418
2004	8,783	1,040
2005	7,054	1,269
2006	4,201	1,227
Total	45,131	—

In appeals to the IAT (i.e. those prior to April 2005), the outcome (allowed or dismissed) relates to the party who lodged the appeal to the IAT, so may have been the respondent in the initial appeal to the IAA. Since

April 2005, where an appeal is reconsidered by the AIT, the outcome relates to the appeal and not to the application for review. Thus, where an appeal is allowed on reconsideration, that represents a decision in the appellant's favour.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria were used by his Department to determine the paybands of departmental staff; and if he will make a statement. [147293]

Maria Eagle: All staff employed by Ministry of Justice from the former DCA (including HMCS and Tribunals Service staff) will be invited to opt into a new pay deal which incorporates a regional pay structure. These arrangements do not apply to staff employed by the Home Office or its agencies who transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

Regional pay is a reality in the economy as a whole—pay variations by location are not new. The system we are introducing offers greater coherence, greater transparency and enables us to target public money most effectively on those areas where there is greatest need. It will allow us to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain staff with the skills we need, where we need them.

In establishing our pay ranges we have explored pay related data for each of the regions of Great Britain (as defined by National Statistics, excluding Northern Ireland). This has included analysing data on average weekly pay and unemployment rates, salary surveys from reputable sources, pay data from other Government Departments and our own staff recruitment and retention data. We have also taken specialist advice from external consultants.

Decisions on the allocation of an office to a pay range were made using that data and following consultation with senior local managers. The involvement of local managers has ensured that local factors, which the economic data might not capture, can be properly reflected in the decisions.

Since the employment market does change over time, we have agreed an annual review mechanism. If the market changes significantly, the allocation of an office to a pay range can be adjusted accordingly.

Electronic Tagging

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons currently ordered by the courts to be tagged *(a)* as part of their bail conditions, *(b)* as part of an early release scheme and *(c)* as part of their sentence, have not yet had the tagging technology activated; and if he will make a statement; [147516]

(2) what the longest period was between a court ordering a person in the community to be tagged and that tag not having been activated as at 21 June 2007; [147518]

(3) for what reasons some persons ordered to be tagged by the courts as part of *(a)* their bail conditions, *(b)* early release schemes and *(c)* their sentence have not yet had the tagging technology activated; and if he make a statement. [147519]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to installation of electronic monitoring equipment are not routinely collected by the monitoring contractors in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. From 1 January 2007 to 31 May 2007, the latest period for which figures are available, the contractors installed the monitoring equipment in 99.37 per cent. of audited cases within 24 hours of notification by a Court or Prison.

It is the intention of the Department that all persons are tagged at the earliest opportunity. Installation of equipment may not happen for a number of different reasons. The subject may be delayed in travelling to the curfew address from court or custody, or be curfewed to an address with multiple accommodation such as flats or apartments where the contractor may have initial difficulty in accessing the building.

Prompt follow-up action is required by the contractor under such circumstances. If the person is absent at the first attempt the contractor will report the failure to the relevant supervising agency or the Court if the person is not under supervision. One further attempt must be made to complete installation within 24 hours of the start of the first monitoring period. If the second installation attempt is unsuccessful the contractor must report the failure as a breach of the curfew.

Electronic Tagging: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by tagged offenders in Stockport in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007. [147258]

Mr. Hanson: Data on re-offending by offenders wearing electronic tags are collated centrally only in respect of offenders released on to the home detention curfew scheme. The data are not broken down by areas in which subsequent offences are committed. To provide such information would involve a manual trawl of the data and would incur disproportionate cost.

Family Courts

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children, and which organisations representing children, responded to the Confidence and Confidentiality consultation on family courts; [147396]

(2) *(a)* how many children, and *(b)* which organisations representing children, his Department has sent the consultation document Openness in Family Courts. [147397]

Bridget Prentice: Over 200 children and young people contributed their views to the consultation on Confidence and Confidentiality. Some of them did this by registering on our online discussion forum (32) or visiting the Minister (three children from Southwark council). Some of them did this by attending one of various events held around the country (104 at a children's rights event in Leicester; 13 at an event run by the Family Justice Council/National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) in Birkenhead; 32 took part in a mock hearing run by the Children's

Commissioner). Others submitted their views as part of a broader response from local authorities (including Oldham and Calderdale) and children's organisations (including NYAS and Voice of the Child in Care). Still others (12) produced a video about young people's views with help from CAFCASS.

Formal responses were received from the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, By the Bridge, Voice, the National Children's Bureau and NSPCC. The full list is available at annex A of the response paper at:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/courttransparency1106/response-cp1106.pdf.

The consultation document was published on 20 June and mailed to over 800 individuals and organisations. The initial mail-out included 148 directors of children's services across England and Wales. In addition, copies were sent to a large number of voluntary organisations that represent children and ensure their voice is heard, such as Young Voice and Voice for the Child in Care. It was sent to organisations that offer children support, including Childline, the Children's Society, Action for Children and the NSPCC. It was sent to organisations that protect children's rights, such as Children's Rights Alliance for England, the Children's Legal Centre and National Children's Bureau.

Prisoners Release: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in compensation for board to prisoners who have been released early in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [147551]

Mr. Hanson: I have presumed that the hon. Gentleman refers to 'compensation for board' as the subsistence payment in lieu of benefits made to prisoners being released on an end of custody licence (ECL) and that 'released early' refers to the ECL, home detention curfew (HDC) or parole.

The ECL came into use on 29 June 2007 and no figures are yet available for the amount which has been paid for subsistence. This payment is made because prisoners on an ECL are released under temporary licence from prison in accordance with the provisions of the Prisons Act 1952 and, as such, are statutorily ineligible to receive benefits payments.

Prisoners released on HDC or on parole receive benefits payments, if eligible within normal terms so there is no additional payment.

Prisoners Release: Winchester Prison

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are to be released from Winchester Prison under the Government's recent early release proposals in the next 12 months. [147517]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for release are not available to be broken down by establishment.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation Centres

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners received treatment through the detoxification unit at Cardiff Prison in each year since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [147584]

Mr. Hanson: The following numbers of prisoners have received treatment through the detoxification unit at Cardiff prison since it opened on 13 September 2004.

	Number
September 2004-August 2005	1,051
September 2005-August 2006	915
September 2006-2 July 2007	558

Prisons: Labour Turnover

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of staff turnover in the Prison Service in prisons in Wales was in each month since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [147586]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the rate of staff turnover in public sector prisons in Wales, expressed as a percentage of total staff in post, is contained in the following table:

Proportion of staff leaving public sector prison service establishments in Wales as a percentage of total staff in post. Each month—January 2002 to March 2007

	Monthly turnover rate (percentage of staff leaving in month)
2002	
January	0.7
February	0.8
March	1.7
April	0.6
May	0.2
June	0.4
July	0.4
August	0.8
September	1.0
October	1.3
November	0.7
December	1.1
2003	
January	0.6
February	0.8
March	0.7
April	1.3
May	1.6
June	0.7
July	0.5
August	0.7
September	0.8
October	0.9
November	0.4
December	0.3

Proportion of staff leaving public sector prison service establishments in Wales as a percentage of total staff in post. Each month—January 2002 to March 2007

	Monthly turnover rate (percentage of staff leaving in month)
2004	
January	0.1
February	1.6
March	0.8
April	0.5
May	0.8
June	0.9
July	0.7
August	0.7
September	0.8
October	0.5
November	0.5
December	0.8
2005	
January	0.1
February	0.3
March	0.6
April	0.2
May	0.3
June	0.3
July	0.7
August	0.5
September	1.5
October	0.7
November	0.4
December	1.1
2006	
January	0.3
February	0.7
March	0.0
April	0.8
May	0.6
June	1.0
July	1.0
August	1.1
September	0.6
October	0.9
November	0.5
December	0.6

Proportion of staff leaving public sector prison service establishments in Wales as a percentage of total staff in post. Each month—January 2002 to March 2007

	Monthly turnover rate (percentage of staff leaving in month)
2007	
January	0.7
February	1.1
March	0.8

Note:
These figures do not include staff transferring to other parts of the Prison Service.

Prisons: Wales

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to respond to the report by the Welsh Affairs Committee on the prisons estate in Wales. [146373]

Mr. Hanson: We expect to respond to the report week commencing 6 August 2007.

Victim Support Schemes: Expenditure

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1733W, on victim support schemes: expenditure, what his estimate is of the annual total funding for the support of victims and witnesses since 2002 in addition to the grant to Victim Support. [147613]

Mr. Hanson: Information on funding for victims and witnesses is not held centrally in this way. However funding to support victims and witnesses includes those in the following table:

There is other funding from this and other Government departments and local government which also includes elements that support victims and witnesses including:

Police
NHS
Local Authorities
Local Criminal Justice Boards
Safeguarding children partnerships
Housing
Connected Fund help to support victims of gun and knife crime, and gang violence.

£

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Compensation paid by criminal injuries compensation scheme (old scheme and tariff scheme cases)	233.5 million	232. 1 million	227.5 million	186.2 million	183.9 million	190.1 million
Domestic violence (including regional initiatives, helpline, specialist domestic violence courts and independent domestic violence advisors)	n/a	8.54 million	8.65 million	4 million	5.5 million	6 million

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Sexual violence (including sexual assault referral centres, victims fund grants, umbrella organisations, independent sexual violence advisors)	406,000	432,000	300,000	1 million	3 million	3 million
POPPY projects (victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation)	n/a	33,000	216,000	593,000	620,000	1.2 million
Witness care units	n/a	n/a	n/a		36.1 million	
Court waiting facilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.1 million	368,700
Court video links	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.6 million	2.75 million
Police video recording facilities	n/a	n/a	2 million	n/a	n/a	n/a
The self help organisation, support after murder and manslaughter	120,000	130,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
Victim and witness delivery fund for LCJBs	n/a	n/a	n/a	150,000	n/a	200,000
Memorial service	n/a	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Donation to London bombings relief charitable fund (for victims of terrorism in the UK)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 million	2.5 million
7July Assistance Centre	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	89,425	204,797
Tsunami support network	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	121,927	n/a
Charitable fund for victims of overseas terrorism	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1 million	n/a

n/a = Figures are either not available, not quantifiable or not known.

Young Offender Institutions: Overcrowding

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of levels of overcrowding at young offenders institutions; and if he will make a statement. [146799]

Mr. Hanson: The assessment of the occupancy of all prisoner accommodation is undertaken by senior operational managers in line with national guidance (Prison Service Order 1900 Certified Prisoner Accommodation) which details measurable standards for the certification of cells that can be applied consistently across the estate and contributes to providing decent living conditions for all prisoners.

TREASURY

Babies: Down's Syndrome

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* births and *(b)* terminations there were of babies with Down's Syndrome in each of the last five years; [147008]

(2) how many *(a)* births and *(b)* terminations there were of babies with (i) spina bifida, (ii) heart defects and (iii) kidney problems recognised during pregnancy in each of the last five years. [147009]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many (a) births and (b) terminations there were of babies with Down's Syndrome in each of the last five years (147008); and how many (a) births and (b) terminations there were of babies with (i) spina bifida, (ii) heart defects and (iii) kidney problems recognised in pregnancy in each of the last five years (147009). I am replying in her absence.

The table attached provides (a) the number of births notified to the National Congenital Anomaly System for England and Wales (NCAS) with a mention of (i) Down Syndrome, (ii) spina bifida, (iii) any cardiovascular anomaly, and (iv) selected renal anomalies, for 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available); and (b) the number of legal abortions reported to the Chief Medical Officers for England and Wales under Ground E of the Abortion Act 1967 with a mention of these anomalies, for 2001 to 2006 (the latest year available).

The number of notifications received by NCAS is likely to be less than the actual number of infants born with an anomaly. NHS Trusts provide these notifications to NCAS on a voluntary basis, either on forms sent to ONS or via local congenital anomaly registers. The recording of congenital anomalies is more complete in those areas where a register operates, because the register can obtain additional information locally. Consequently, the figures for congenital anomalies are presented separately for areas where a register operated in 2005 and for areas without a register in that year. In 2005, registers covered 45 per cent of births in England and all births in Wales.

While a few of these local congenital anomaly registers were already established in 2001, others were set up as late as 2003. Increases over time in the number of notifications for some congenital anomalies in the areas covered by a register in 2005 are likely to be due to the improved completeness of information brought about as these registers came into operation.

Congenital anomalies are reported to NCAS at or after birth, and do not include any information on whether or not the anomaly was diagnosed during pregnancy.

Abortions are carried out under Ground E of the Abortion Act only if there is substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped. Therefore, the anomaly must by definition have been diagnosed during pregnancy.

Table 1: Number of notifications of selected congenital anomalies[1], 2001-05 and abortions[2], 2001-06, England and Wales[3, 4]

Number

	Congenital anomalies			
	Register areas	*Non-register areas*	*All areas*	*Abortions*
Down syndrome				
2001	253	128	381	347
2002	220	138	358	372
2003	282	122	404	401
2004	364	111	475	419
2005	350	103	453	429
2006	—	—	—	436
Spina bifida				
2001	34	25	59	127
2002	46	29	75	98
2003	41	40	81	118
2004	53	25	78	90
2005	34	22	56	121
2006	—	—	—	106
Cardiovascular anomalies				
2001	1,029	253	1,282	110
2002	1,031	260	1,291	103
2003	1,359	179	1,538	108
2004	1,282	159	1,441	147
2005	1,255	142	1,397	111
2006	—	—	—	129
Selected renal anomalies[5]				
2001	461	232	693	48
2002	517	217	734	43
2003	645	190	835	56
2004	622	162	784	43
2005	615	161	776	45
2006	—	—	—	32

[1] Live and still births notified to the National Congenital Anomalies System with a mention of the anomalies listed.
[2] Legal abortions performed under Ground E of the Abortion Act 1967. Figures provided by Department of Health.
[3] Births and abortions to women resident in England and Wales.
[4] Down Syndrome is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) code Q90, spina bifida using code Q05, and cardiovascular anomalies using codes Q20-Q28. Selected renal anomalies were defined using ICD-10 codes Q60-Q61, Q62.0 and Q63 for congenital anomalies and codes Q60-Q61 for abortions.
[5] Congenital anomaly figures for selected renal anomalies are provisional.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1495W, on departmental expenditure, whether the £50,955 is in addition to the £133,237 referred to in the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 196W. [147115]

Angela Eagle: The figure of £50,955 including VAT in the answer of the former Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 18 June 2007 was additional to the figure of £133,237 excluding VAT in the answer of 4 December 2006.

Departments: Block Grant

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual block grant was for the Home Department in each year since 2002. [147614]

Andy Burnham: The budget for the Home Office is set as part of the three-year spending review cycle. The following table sets out the Home Office budget for capital and resource since 2002. Future budget allocations will reflect transfers of responsibility following the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007.

£ million

	Resource	*Capital*
2002-03	11,910	929
2003-04	12,004	941
2004-05	12,232	998
2005-06	12,703	1,034
2006-07 estimated	13,218	1,261

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests for internal review made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have taken longer than 40 working days to complete. [146386]

Angela Eagle: There is no statutory obligation on public authorities to complete internal reviews within a specified timeframe.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister agreed to each use by his Department of a section 36 exemption to withhold information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and on which dates. [146527]

Angela Eagle: As is common with other departments HMT's departmental minister oversees the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last year to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147341]

Angela Eagle: 89 members of staff in HM Treasury (8 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age.

The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147345]

Angela Eagle: The Department has not estimated the number of its staff using public transport to commute. Treasury encourages the use of public transport and cycling to work by providing interest-free loans for the purchase of public transport season tickets and participation in the Cycle to Work scheme.

Ministers: Taxation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what advice HM Revenue and Customs has provided on the tax status of official ministerial residences; [146868]

(2) what guidance HM Revenue and Customs has produced on whether ministerial severance payments under the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991 are liable to *(a)* income tax and *(b)* National Insurance contributions. [146869]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC provides guidance on a range of tax and national insurance issues both in a booklet about tax for Members of Parliament and Ministers and in the notes to the parliament pages of the self-assessment return.

Planning Gain Supplement: Local Authorities

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation his Department has undertaken with local authorities on the distribution of planning-gain supplement. [146781]

Angela Eagle: The Government have consulted extensively with local authorities and other stakeholders throughout the development of the proposals for the planning-gain supplement.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of planning-gain supplement he proposes to return to the local authorities within whose area it is generated; and whether the remainder will be allocated to the region within which it is generated. [146782]

Angela Eagle: The Government set out their proposals for the allocation of planning-gain supplement revenues in paragraph 3.149 - 3.154 of Budget 2007 which is available in the Library of the House.

Public Services Productivity Panel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what contribution John Miskelly made through work on the Public Services Productivity Panel; [147116]

(2) over what periods John Miskelly was employed on the Public Services Productivity Panel. [147117]

Angela Eagle: John Miskelly was appointed a member of the Public Services Productivity Panel in September 2000, he resigned from the panel on 31 October 2001. During that time he attended two meetings of the panel.

Revenue and Customs: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider *(a)* amalgamating the tax offices in Kettering into one building and *(b)* not relocating the staff to Northampton or Leicester. [146400]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are currently reviewing the Northampton urban centre, which includes Kettering, and no decisions have yet been made.

I will consider all representations that have been made to me on this subject from hon. Members, staff and Trade Unions alongside the impact on customers, staff and diversity before coming to a view. HMRC will retain an inquiry centre presence in Kettering irrespective of the outcome of the review.

Revenue and Customs: Sunderland

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Mapeley about the feasibility of finding alternative uses for Shackleton and Gilbridge Houses in Sunderland if HM Revenue and Customs withdraws from Sunderland city centre; and if he will make a statement. [147005]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are currently undertaking a review of the Newcastle, Sunderland and Washington urban centre. No decisions have yet been made. HMRC have not discussed the feasibility of finding alternative uses for Shackleton and Gilbridge Houses in Sunderland with Mapeley.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the economy of Sunderland city centre of the proposed closure of HM Revenue and Customs offices in Gilbridge and Shackleton houses; and if he will make a statement. [147006]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs are currently undertaking a review of the Newcastle, Sunderland and Washington urban centre. No decisions have yet been made.

The review process includes the production of an impact assessment which considers the social and economic effects of closure on the wider community, as well as on staff and customers.

Teenage Pregnancy: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the teenage conception rate was for *(a)* the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* Cheadle at the latest date for which figures are available. [147257]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the teenage conception rate was for *(a)* the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* Cheadle at the latest date for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (147257)

ONS does not routinely produce teenage conception figures for girls aged under 20 by Primary Care Trust (PCT) because there is a risk of disclosure of information about individuals due to differences in boundaries between PCTs and local authorities.

Figures for girls aged under 18 are however published at local authority level and figures for the Metropolitan District of Stockport for 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below and are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Under 18 conceptions: number and rate for Stockport Metropolitan District 2005[1]

	Under 18	
	Number	*Rate*[2]
Stockport MD	190	33

[1] Figures for 2005 are provisional.
[2] Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17.

Unemployment

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of 18 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Kettering constituency. [146405]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in employment, education or training. I am replying in her absence. (146405)

There were 992,000 people, aged 18 to 24, resident in the United Kingdom, who were not in full-time education, employment or training, based on data from the Annual Population Survey, for the 12 months ending in December 2006. This is 19 per cent of the 18 to 24 population. The corresponding estimates for the county of Northamptonshire are 12,000 and 21 per cent respectively. For the Kettering constituency, the corresponding estimates are 2,000 and 17 per cent respectively.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. This is particularly true for the estimates for Northamptonshire and Kettering.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes were classed as unemployed in each year between 1997 and 2007. [146671]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) England and (b) Milton Keynes have been classed as unemployed in each year between 1997 and 2007. I am replying in her absence. (146671)

For unitary and local authorities, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces estimates of total unemployment, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas are compiled from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following ILO definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of persons aged 16 and over, resident in England, who were unemployed and the corresponding unemployment rate, for the 12 months ending in February 1997 to February 2004 from the annual local area LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March 2005 to March 2006 from the APS. Table 1 also shows corresponding model-based estimates for the Milton Keynes unitary authority.

The LFS and APS data and the model-based estimates are all subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). Table 2, attached, shows the annual average number of people, resident in England and the Milton Keynes unitary authority, claiming ISA from 1997 to 2006. Also shown are the total numbers of claimants as percentages of the resident working age population.

Table 1: unemployed persons, aged 16 and over, resident in England and Milton Keynes

Thousand

	England		*Milton Keynes*	
12 months ending:	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[1,2] *(percentage)*	*Level*[1]	*Rate*[2,3] *(percentage)*
February 1997	1,820	7.7	5	5.0
February 1998	1,566	6.6	6	5.9
February 1999	1,399	5.9	5	5.2
February 2000	1,373	5.7	4	3.9
February 2001	1,228	5.1	4	3.3
February 2002	1,167	4.8	4	3.5
February 2003	1,218	5.0	6	4.8
February 2004	1,188	4.8	6	4.8
March 2005	1,146	4.6	5	4.4
March 2006	1,238	5.0	6	4.8

[1] Annual local area Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey data subject to a margin of uncertainty associated with sampling variability.
[2] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.
[3] Model-based estimates subject to a margin of uncertainty associated with the statistical model. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey; ONS

Table 2: annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance resident in England and Milton Keynes and the number expressed as a percentage of the working age population

	England		Milton Keynes	
	Number	Proportion[1] (percentage)	Number	Proportion[1] (percentage)
1997	1,299,117	4.4	3,610	2.8
1998	1,093,570	3.7	2,591	2.0
1999	1,013,507	3.4	2,358	1.8
2000	882,827	2.9	2,085	1.5
2001	783,582	2.6	1,976	1.4
2002	770,102	2.5	2,337	1.7
2003	763,771	2.5	2,678	1.9
2004	699,669	2.3	2,590	1.8
2005	715,546	2.3	2,683	1.9
2006	794,356	2.5	3,193	2.2

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20 *(f)* 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year olds were (i) economically inactive and not in full-time education and (ii) unemployed in each year since 1997, broken down by (A) parliamentary constituency, (B) local education authority area and (C) region. [147035]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 4 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) 16, (b) 17, (c) 18, (d) 19, (e) 20, (f) 21, (g) 22, (h) 23 and (i) 24 year olds were (i) economically inactive and not in full-time education and (ii) unemployed in each year since 1997, broken down by (A) parliamentary constituency, (b) local education authority area and (C) region. I am replying in her absence. (147035)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. To provide an answer requires retrieving 18 separate estimates from complex datasets for each parliamentary constituency, each local education authority area and each region for 10 separate years. This data, amounting to 150,000 separate estimates in total, would then need to be presented in tables and be quality assured.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1323W, on Valuation Office: contracts, if he will place in the Library a copy of the ASPIRE terms and conditions which relate to confidentiality. [145343]

Jane Kennedy: As my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury stated in his answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1323W, the ASPIRE terms and conditions prohibit the publicising of details of this agreement. However, in respect of the specific information requested, the Government have obtained the agreement of both parties to the contract to place a copy of the clauses relating to confidentiality in the Library of the House. These include the statutory safeguards provided for by Section 182 of the Finance Act 1989, Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, Section 6 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 or Section 123 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. A copy of the ASPIRE terms and conditions relating to confidentiality have been placed in the Library.

VAT: Disability Aids

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on value added tax and the purchase of aids and equipment for the elderly. [146561]

Jane Kennedy: As announced at Budget 2007, from 1 July the VAT chargeable on certain home adaptations that are designed to support the needs of elderly people will be reduced to 5 per cent. the lowest rate available under our European VAT agreements. The precise scope of this new relief was outlined in HMRC Brief 47/07 which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/brief/charities/brief4707.htm.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimates he has made of the proportion of tax credit overpayments which are caused by official error; and if he will make a statement. [145403]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 416W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls to the tax credits helpline were dealt with by private sector companies in each month from January 2003 to June 2007; how many of these were not recorded; and what steps are taken to notify claimants of this fact, where relevant, when they appeal against overpaid tax credits. [144702]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC supplemented its internal Contact Centre capacity with the use of private sector companies to deliver tax credit services during 2003-04. The table lists the monthly calls handled by these suppliers for the period requested. During any months in the period in question, where a value is not shown for calls handled, HMRC did not need to use private sector companies to supplement its services, and all calls were handled by HMRC.

The number of calls handled by private sector suppliers, which were not recorded, is not available in the format requested.

Calls handled by private sector companies were generic and did not require access to HMRC Computer systems or individual customer records.

	[1]Calls handled
2003	
January	239
February	310
March	618
April	660
May	728

	[1] Calls handled
June	32
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0
2004	
January	0
February	57
March	181
April	133
May	138
June	138
July	124
August	178
September	294
October	167

[1] volumes shown in thousands, rounded to the nearest thousand

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: HIV Infection

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist *(a)* Uganda and *(b)* Senegal in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. [147145]

Mr. Thomas: DFID acknowledge the seriousness of the epidemic in Uganda and are working closely with the Government of Uganda, other donors and civil society organisations to support the Government's own national strategic plan for universal access to treatment, care and prevention. DFID are providing £9 million over three years to enhance national institutional capacity to achieve universal access. Our support is especially helping address potential gaps in the Government's prevention strategy.

The UK is the second largest donor of AIDS-related assistance in developing countries, spending £385 million in 2005-06. This includes supporting multilateral institutions like the World Bank, the UN agencies and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria whose combined operations span all developing countries.

DFID have committed £359 million to the Global Fund for 2002-08, including £100 million in 2006 and the same for 2007. The fund is supporting substantial HIV and AIDS programmes in both Senegal and Uganda, with commitments of $41 million and $166 million respectively.

Bangladesh: Poverty

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken by his Department in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank to alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. [147146]

Mr. Malik: DFID works closely with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Bangladesh as part of a Joint Strategy partnership (which also includes the World Bank and Japan). Together, these four donors account for 80 per cent. of all development assistance to Bangladesh.

The Joint Strategy partnership group was formed in 2005 as a response the Government of Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Joint Strategy approach has allowed more effective allocation of lead sector responsibilities among donors, and it is hoped that it will eventually lead to the development of a common donor strategy for Bangladesh.

DFID works directly with the ADB through the following programmes:

Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) II:

DFID is providing £100 million through a pooled funded arrangement managed by the ADB, to provide 17 million primary aged children in over 78,000 schools with quality primary education.

Urban Primary Health Care Project:

DFID is contributing £15 million over six years to provide improved primary health care services in urban areas. The project, co-funded by the ADB, has a particular focus on providing health care services to poor women and girls.

Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project II (RIIP II):

DFID is providing £35 million over five years to RIIP II, which is also funded by ADB and the German Government, to reduce physical, social and economic exclusion among 28 million people in 23 of Bangladesh's poorest districts. This recently approved project will develop rural infrastructure and improve access to services and markets, provide opportunities for employment and strengthen the capacity of local government to deliver infrastructure services to the poor.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146425]

Mr. Malik: From 2002, individual departments and agencies have been responsible for their own reward arrangements for senior civil servants (including the award of non-pensionable performance bonuses) within a framework set by the Cabinet Office.

The following table gives the number of bonuses awarded to DFID's senior civil servants since 2002, together with the total costs for each of those years. All bonus payments are non-pensionable. No bonus payments were made by DFID to members of the senior civil service prior to 2002.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of awards	27	51	57	68	65
Total cost (£)	85,051	153,170	189,500	266,750	377,100
% of SCS paybill [1]	2.3	3.8	4.0	5.0	6.5

[1] The percentage of the senior civil service (SCS) paybill allocated to performance related bonuses has increased year-on-year. This is in line with the Government's stated objective of building the bonus pot annually so that it reaches 10 per cent. of the SCS paybill by 2008.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146984]

Mr. Malik: The following two tables give the number of non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID staff over the last three years, together with the total costs for each of those years.

Non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID senior civil servants (SCS)

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]
Number of awards	68	65	n/a
Total cost (£)	266,750	377,100	n/a
Percentage of SCS paybill[2]	5.0	6.5	

n/a = not applicable.
[1] Non-pensionable bonuses for the SCS in relation to the 2006-07 reporting year are not payable until November 2007.
[2] The percentage of the SCS paybill allocated to performance related bonuses is increasing year on year. This is in line with the Government's stated objective of building the bonus pot annually so that it reaches 10 per cent. of the SCS paybill by 2008.

Non-pensionable bonuses awarded to DFID staff in grades below the SCS

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of awards	508	1,106	1,020
Total cost (£)	230,600	515,865	558,233
Percentage of paybill for grades below the SCS[1]	0.4	0.8	0.9

[1] For DFID staff below the SCS, the amount of money allocated for all forms of bonus payment is limited to a maximum of 1.2 per cent. of the paybill costs.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146921]

Mr. Malik: For the senior civil service (SCS), Departments and agencies are responsible for their own performance management arrangements within a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The 2006-07 guidance for the SCS was based on a relative assessment of how individuals compared to their peers, with between 5 and 10 per cent. of SCS staff being placed into the lowest of three performance groupings.

The performance management arrangements for staff in grades below the SCS have been delegated to individual Departments. DFID has in place a system similar to that of the SCS, whereby staff are classified as falling into one of three performance categories - with the lowest being defined as "those most in need of development". For staff below the SCS, the distribution of performance markings is not determined by a quota allocation.

Neither system explicitly identifies staff as "unacceptable" performers. Both are based on the principle of bringing about performance improvements through continual dialogue and coaching; and both are designed to identify those in whom DFID should invest more resources in terms of training and personal development.

We do have parallel systems in place to identify "unacceptable" performers whose standard of work falls well below that expected of their grade. In such cases, line managers are charged with setting in place a formal performance improvement plan, to be agreed with the job holder. Failure to meet the required standards within a specified period of time may result in sanctions being applied, including dismissal. Information on the number of staff being monitored in this way is not recorded centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to travel to work. [147313]

Mr. Malik: DFID last carried out a survey of staff two years ago in order to produce Green Travel Plans for our two UK offices. Our London office has no car parking for staff, so with the exception of 13 per cent. staff who cycled all or part of the journey, or 3 per cent. who walked, the remainder all used public transport. Our smaller East Kilbride office is somewhat more difficult to reach via public transport but around 20 per cent. use either trains or buses. The majority of the remainder use cars, but at least a third of these use car sharing arrangements. Overall, around 60 per cent. of our staff use public transport.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147057]

Mr. Malik: The following table sets out how many DFID staff have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months.

Periods of sick leave of less than 5 days	*Number of staff in the last 12 months*
5 or more	83
4	50
3	107
2	194

HIV Infection: Medical Treatments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government are giving to UNICEF's efforts for a greater supply of the necessary medication to prevent the transmission from mother to baby of HIV/AIDS; and if he will make a statement. [147191]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has committed to spend at least £150 million over the three years from 2005-08 on programmes to meet the needs of children affected by AIDS. When the commitment was made in 2004 it was expected that at least £44 million of this would be delivered through UNICEF. The methodology to track this expenditure is under review.

In 2006 the UK was the second largest donor to UNICEF, providing £105 million. This included £19 million of core financial support and £5 million to increase the coverage, quality and coordination of the global response for children affected by HIV and AIDS. Both of these elements contribute directly to supporting UNICEF's strategic goals, which include reducing the number of paediatric HIV infections by at least 40 per cent. and ensuring that at least 80 per cent. of HIV positive pregnant women receive antiretroviral therapy to prevent mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV.

DFID is also intensifying action on PMTCT at country level with a range of partners, including UNICEF. For example in Zimbabwe DFID has initiated a £25 million project specifically to strengthen actions to prevent, diagnose and treat HIV infections in mothers and babies. In Zambia, we support UNICEF's expansion of PMTCT services.

South America: Poverty

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department are undertaking to alleviate poverty in *(a)* Uruguay, *(b)* Argentina, *(c)* Brazil and *(d)* Peru. [147144]

Mr. Malik: DFID's support to these four countries is provided through international ("multi-lateral") organisations—mainly the European Union, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. In 2004, DFID's contributions through these channels were £1 million to Uruguay; £1 million to Argentina; £6 million to Brazil; and £2 million to Peru. To help these organisations focus on reducing poverty, DFID has a Latin-America regional programme, with offices in Brazil, Bolivia (for the Andes) and Nicaragua (for central America). These offices work with the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank on two areas: (i) helping poor people benefit from markets, and (ii) making public sectors and political systems more transparent and accountable. In addition, we work on global issues that affect the region such as HIV and AIDS, and trade. Social exclusion is a cross-cutting theme throughout all facets of our work. DFID is also supporting a number of UK NGOs working in Latin America under partnership programme agreements and the Civil Society Challenge Fund.

DFID's assistance to Latin America from 2004-07 is set out in the regional assistance plan, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UN Joint Logistics Centre in providing non food items for humanitarian programmes run by non-governmental organisations in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [147201]

Mr. Thomas: Overall, the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) runs an effective mechanism for the supply and distribution of non-food items (NFIs) for Darfur in partnership with CARE and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Between January and May this year, 307,178 households were provided with NFIs, roughly 1.8 million people.

Given the scale of need in Darfur and like all other sectors, the supply of NFIs requires regular prioritisation to ensure the available resources are directed to the most pressing needs. UNJLC, CARE and other UN and NGO partners regularly meet to define the NFI priorities for Darfur, a process that is working well in very challenging circumstances. A second constraint is that of access for distributing agencies. Pervasive insecurity, including increasing attacks against humanitarian agencies, has limited the ability to deliver NFIs and other aid to populations in need.

It is only through the admirable work of the UN and NGOs that aid is being delivered to the 4 million people in need in Darfur. I utterly condemn the continuing violence targeting civilians and humanitarian workers in Darfur and the UK has called on all sides to cease the violence immediately; renew the ceasefire, reinvigorate the political process and support the rapid deployment of the AU/UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Further Education

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage those in employment to engage in further educational study. [147155]

Mr. Lammy: It is essential that individuals in employment are encouraged to study further. The Leitch Review of Skills published in 2006 reinforced this and I welcome Lord Leitch's assessment that the need to dramatically raise awareness and aspirations on skills and to change people's attitudes is key to this.

On 9 July, we will launch a long-term, national marketing campaign which will play an important and powerful role in bringing about the change in culture that we need.

In order to improve their skills and employability and progress their careers, people also need to be informed of the choices they have. The Leitch Report made some specific recommendations on how to improve careers advice and empower the learner; we will respond to these in the forthcoming Leitch Implementation Plan.

Our policies also encourage and support those in employment to engage in further upskilling in various ways. Train to Gain is central to delivering a truly demand-led system and is the key vehicle for delivering the expansion in participation and achievement for

individuals already in the work force. As at April 2007, a total of 154,290 learners had commenced learning through Train to Gain and over 40,000 employers had been engaged. The level 2 entitlement provides free tuition for all adults studying for their first full level 2 qualification. The Skills for Life programme provides opportunities for adult learners to acquire the underpinning skills they need for further learning and sustainable employment and many adults have benefited from free provision and achieved their first ever qualification in literacy, language or numeracy. Adults under the age of 25 who have missed out on education and training opportunities will be able to get free tuition through further education colleges and providers to obtain a first, full level 3 qualification, equivalent to 2 A-levels, from this August.

Higher Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students *(a)* enrolled for and *(b)* were awarded higher national certificates in each of the last 10 years. [146491]

Bill Rammell: The information is provided in the following tables. The length of time taken to complete a higher national certificate (HNC) can vary. Typically, the qualification lasts one year if studied full-time or two years if studied part-time. In addition, students completing an HNC can proceed directly to further study such as a higher national diploma (HND). For these reasons, it is not possible to calculate completion rates simply by comparing entrants with qualifiers.

Number of entrants to higher national certificate (HNC) courses[1], UK higher education Institutions[2], academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Academic year	Entrants
1996/97	8,735
1997/98	8,800
1998/99	8,830
1999/2000	8,650
2000/01	10,470
2001/02	12,280
2002/03	10,335
2003/04	9,280
2004/05	8,560
2005/06	8,070

[1] Covers students on both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Excludes the Open university.
Note:
Entrant figures are on a snapshot basis as of 1 December for comparability. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Number of qualifiers from higher national certificate (HNC) courses[1], UK higher education Institutions[2], academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

Academic year	Qualifiers
1996/97	5,110
1997/98	4,625
1998/99	4,460
1999/2000	4,750
2000/01[3]	5,315
2001/02	5,985
2002/03	5,760
2003/04	5,950
2004/05	5,625
2005/06	5,100

[1] Covers students on both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Excludes the Open university.
[3] From 2000-01, students qualifying from a dormant mode of study are included in the figures; they are excluded in all previous years. In 2000-01, there were 195 students who qualified with a HNC from a dormant mode of study.
Note:
Entrant figures are on a snapshot basis as of 1 December for comparability. All figures are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education Funding Council for England: Qualifications

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's annual budget was spent on Higher National Diplomas in each year since the introduction of that qualification; and how much of that budget was spent on *(a)* course design, *(b)* teaching and *(c)* other activities; [146414]

(2) what the total cost to the public purse was of *(a)* foundation degrees, *(b)* Higher National Diplomas and *(c)* Higher National Certificates in each year since their introduction. [146415]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to answer these questions in precisely the way they have been asked on the basis of the data which is available centrally. The following table sets out for each of the last five years the amount of the Higher Education Funding Council's budget notionally allocated to support *(a)* Foundation Degrees *(b)* Higher National Diplomas and *(c)* Higher National Certificates in cash terms and calculates *(b)* as a proportion of the Council's overall budget.

	Notional grant £ million			
	Foundation degrees	HNDs	HNCs	HND budget as percentage of total HEFCE budget
2001-02	9	155	56	3.2
2002-03	30	133	46	2.6
2003-04	54	115	45	2.1
2004-05	98	105	48	1.7
2005-06	140	88	46	1.4

Higher Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the student to lecturer ratio is in *(a)* Russell Group, *(b)* pre-1992 and *(c)* post-1992 universities, broken down by subject. [146412]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not produce detailed breakdowns of student to staff ratios.

Higher Education: Disabled

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils in receipt of disabled students' allowance from *(a)* all schools, *(b)* maintained schools, *(c)* low-participation neighbourhoods and *(d)* socio-economic classes 4 to 7 who (i) applied and (ii) were accepted to (A) Oxbridge, (B) Russell Group universities and (C) other universities in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [146429]

Bill Rammell: The information is not collected centrally.

Higher Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what average number of contact hours students received per week in *(a)* Russell Group, *(b)* pre-1992 and *(c)* post-1992 universities with (i) fewer than five, (ii) fewer than 10, (iii) fewer than 15, (iv) fewer than 30 and (v) 30 or more students per academic year in the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by subject. [146411]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not collected centrally. Scheduled contact time is a matter for individual institutions.

Research: Stem Cells

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding for research into the development of treatment using *(a)* embryonic stem cells and *(b)* stem cells from umbilical cords and other adult stem cells his Department has allocated in each of the last five years; and what mechanism is used to determine how funds are apportioned between the two treatments. [147400]

Mr. Denham: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research.

The MRC allocates funding in response-mode following competitive peer review on the basis of scientific quality and potential impact. The MRC supports research on embryonic and adult (including fetal) stem cells, which ranges from fundamental cell biology through to early phase clinical trials. The 'development of treatment' is not a term usually associated with pre-clinical trial scientific research; however, based on a broad interpretation, the majority of MRC's research could be categorised as such.

Funding for stem cell research by the MRC and the Department of Trade and Industry's Technology Programme for the last five years was as follows:

			Percentage of spend on stem cell research (MRC only):	
Financial year	MRC (£ million)	DTI, Technology Programme (£ million	Adult (including fetal)[1]	Embryonic
2002/03	4.5	0.00	n/a	n/a
2003/04	14.5	0.00	n/a	n/a
2004/05	14.2	0.00	50	50
2005/06	17.4	0.80	45	55
2006/07	[2]	1.30	—	—

n/a = Not available.
[1] Fetal includes umbilical stem cells but information is not held in such a way as to identify spend separately.
[2] Not yet available.

Students: Part-Time Employment

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of undergraduate students who were in part-time work in the *(a)* first year, *(b)* second year, *(c)* third year and *(d)* fourth year of their degrees, broken down by (i) socioeconomic group and (ii) number of hours worked per week. [146413]

Bill Rammell: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05, published on 30 March 2006, is a comprehensive study on students' income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. The survey showed that full-time undergraduate students were less likely to undertake paid work in the final year of their course. Further details are available in table 1.

The survey also shows that while a smaller proportion of students tend to work in their final year, those who do tend to work slightly more hours per week (table 2).

Table 1: the proportion of students who undertook paid work at some time during the academic year

Year of study	Socio-economic group	Proportion that were part-time work (percentage)
First year	Managerial/ professional	55
	Intermediate	64
	Routine/manual	61
	All socio-economic groups	58
Second/ intermediate years	Managerial/ professional	60
	Intermediate	58
	Routine/manual	64
	All socio-economic groups	60
Final year/one-year course only	Managerial/ professional	49
	Intermediate	47
	Routine/manual	58
	All socio-economic groups	50
All years	Managerial/ professional	55

Table 1: the proportion of students who undertook paid work at some time during the academic year

Year of study	Socio-economic group	Proportion that were part-time work (percentage)
	Intermediate	55
	Routine/manual	61
	All socio-economic groups	56

Source:
Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05

Table 2: the mean number of hours worked each week by full-time students who undertook paid work at some time during the academic year

Year of study	Mean hours worked per week
First year	13.8
Second/intermediate years	12.3
Final year/one-year course only	14.7
All years	13.6

Source:
Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

City Academies: Standards

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of the average Level 3 qualification and curriculum authority point score for pupils attending state city academies in 2006 was represented by *(a)* GCE A levels, *(b)* GCE AS levels and *(c)* VCE A levels or other Level 3 qualifications; [147082]

(2) what proportion of the average Level 3 qualification and curriculum authority point score for pupils attending schools other than state city academies in 2006 was represented by *(a)* GCE A levels, *(b)* GCE AS levels and *(c)* VCE A levels or other Level 3 qualifications. [147083]

Jim Knight: The qualification composition contributing to Level 3 QCA point scores for students attending academies and for students attending institutions other than academies in 2006 are given in the following table.

Proportion of QCA point scores in the school and college achievement and attainment tables represented by different qualification types, 2005/06

	GCE A level	GCE AS level[1]	Percentage Other Level 3 qualifications
Academies	61	9	30
Institutions other than Academies[2]	68	11	21

[1] Points for GCE AS levels are discounted from average point score measures where students have achieved a GCE A Level in the same subject
[2] Including Further Education Institutions.

Class Sizes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the relationship between class size and pupil achievement at *(a)* Key Stage 1, *(b)* Key Stage 2 and *(c)* Key Stage 3. [147545]

Jim Knight: There is evidence that smaller classes result in an increase in attainment at Key Stage 1, particularly in literacy and maths in the reception year. However the situation is more complex for other age groups. For Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 there is no clear evidence that points towards a similar link between smaller classes and pupils' achievement.

Classroom Assistants: Mathematics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 783W, on classroom assistants: mathematics, how many placements were provided *(a)* overall and *(b)* in mathematics in each financial year since its establishment. [146955]

Jim Knight: The following table details the total placements, and maths placements, for the Student Associate scheme in each academic year since it began. The 2006/07 and 2007/08 figures are estimates. For 2006/07 we will not know the final figures until Sept 2007.

Academic year	Total placements	Maths placements
2003/04	4,734	417
2004/05	6,588	841
2005/06	8,640	1,121
2006/07	[1]7,925	[1]1,379
2007/08	8,338	[1]1,483

[1] Estimate

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1702W, on Departments: delivery unit, what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* end date and *(c)* terms of reference are for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's joint work with his Department on Academies. [147161]

Jim Knight: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit works with my Department on an on-going basis to monitor progress towards the Government's commitment to establish 400 Academies.

Education: Disadvantaged

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much is being spent on *(a)* personalised learning, with special weighting for deprived areas, for low achievers and *(b)* one to one tuition in mathematics and English for low achievers; how much has been spent in Leyton and Wanstead; and if he will make a statement. [147131]

Jim Knight: It is a matter for each local authority—in consultation with their schools forums—to determine the level of funding between different providers, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

Education: Expenditure

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated for capital expenditure on education in Stockton-on-Tees in each year since 1997. [147291]

Jim Knight: Capital allocations for education in Stockton-on-Tees in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	1.0
1998-99	2.4
1999-2000	7.1
2000-01	8.2
2001-02	14.6
2002-03	8.7
2003-04	11.9
2004-05	11.8
2005-06	7.7
2006-07	10.9
2007-08	7.7

The changes in capital funding from year to year, apart from a general rise across the period, result from periodic allocations of ring-fenced capital funding which are additional to the annual formulaic funding. In the current spending review period, from 2005-06 to 2007-08, additional targeted capital funding (TCP) of £0.612 million was allocated in 2005-06, and £3.343 million TCP in 2006-07. The large allocation of £14.6 million in 2001-02 includes a PFI allocation of £6.4 million.

GCE A Level

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in three or more of mathematics, further mathematics, physics, chemistry, French, German and Spanish A-levels in the latest year for which figures are available; [146399]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* independent, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* grammar schools received a grade A in one or more of mathematics, further mathematics, physics, chemistry, French, German and Spanish A-levels in the latest year for which figures are available. [146407]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained mainstream schools who gained five good GCSEs in 2006 gained *(a)* five, *(b)* four and *(c)* three C grades. [146082]

Jim Knight: The answer to this request is given in the table:

Number of pupils in maintained mainstream Schools who got the five or more GCSEs at grades A-C and obtained five, four or three C grades at GCSE*[1]

	5 or more GCSEs at grade C		*4 or more GCSEs at grade C*		*3 or more GCSEs at grade C*	
Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 with 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C*	*Number*	*As a percentage of those with 5 + A*-C*	*Number*	*As a percentage of those with 5 + A*-C*	*Number*	*As a percentage of those with 5 + A*-C*
263,812	75,920	28.8	109,995	41.7	142,226	53.9

[1] At full GCSE only, not including equivalents.

Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Intimidation: Statistics

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he plans to take to encourage schools to *(a)* record all incidents of bullying and *(b)* report the statistics to their local authority; [146512]

(2) what progress is being made on the recommendation of Third Report of Session 2006-07 of the Education and Skills Committee, on Bullying, HC 85, on developing a system for collecting and recording incidents of bullying in schools; [146513]

(3) if his Department will commission a study of the long-term effects of bullying on those subject to it in schools; [146514]

(4) what indicators his Department plans to use to measure progress in tackling prejudice-driven bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities; [146519]

(5) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the non statutory requirement upon schools to report incidents of bullying on the quality of the collected results. [146520]

Jim Knight: As we make clear in the Government response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2006-07, my Department recommends as best practice that schools record all incidents of bullying and report these statistics to their local authority (LA). We will be strengthening this message in our revised overarching anti-bullying guidance and will ensure it is clear in the more specialist guidance we are preparing on homophobic and other forms of prejudice-driven bullying.

However, we do not believe that a statutory requirement on schools to record incidents of bullying would be effective. It would present significant logistical and bureaucratic difficulties for schools, and

there would be substantial issues around consistency of definition, collection, and interpretation which would be expensive, cumbersome and time-consuming to overcome. We think it is better to leave this matter to the good judgment and common sense of teachers, who will have detailed guidance on how best to go about this.

The forthcoming "Tellus 2" survey should give us more comprehensive data on young people's experiences of bullying in schools. It will be an annual survey, starting this year, covering all LAs. Data will be considered by Ofsted in their annual performance assessment of each LA's services, and could lead to Ofsted looking more closely at anti-bullying practices in a particular authority's joint area review (JAR). We are currently looking at how we might use data derived from the survey to inform future policy development.

The Department's contract with the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) includes a specific research element, which is fulfilled by a senior researcher at Goldsmiths College and his team. In our response to the Education and Skills Select Committee's report on bullying, we made clear that the ABA was planning a substantial piece of research into reactive anti-bullying strategies, and we believed this was the best way forward. Any other research projects will be determined in light of our ongoing policy priorities.

The Department does not monitor the progress of individual schools in addressing bullying at a local, regional or national level or, as my earlier answers make clear, collect statistics in this area. However our partners in the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) and National Strategies maintain close links with individual schools and authorities through their regional networks. We have flagged up that there is a need to tackle the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities in our guidance. The ABA and National Strategies work with schools to ensure effective measures are in place to prevent and tackle the bullying of these children. We have also asked the National Strategies to identify schools with weak and ineffective anti-bullying strategies and to provide challenge and support to these schools as appropriate.

Following the Government's commitment to issue specific guidance on prejudice-driven bullying in the Schools White Paper 'Higher Standards, Better Schools for All', my Department produced well-received guidance in 2006 on tackling racist bullying, "Bullying around racism, religion and culture". We will also be launching more specific guidance on how to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying later this year. We recognise there is a need for more specialist guidance to tackle the bullying of pupils with SEN and disabilities Once this is issued we will work with practitioners and with our partners in the field on a programme of dissemination to ensure schools across the country implement the guidance.

Our guidance to schools on tackling bullying has always been intentionally non-statutory. Schools need to determine an approach which best suits their local needs and circumstances, taking into account their pupil population and identified priorities. Schools are autonomous institutions, and we want them to retain the flexibility to establish a system of managing behaviour which best suits the needs of the local community they serve.

Learning Disability: Intimidation

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to prevent bullying among young people with learning difficulties. [146387]

Jim Knight: The Department's existing guidance for schools flags up the need to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. We will be strengthening these messages in our revised anti-bullying guidance which we intend to launch in September under the title 'Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools'. We have also announced that we will be producing specialist guidance on how to prevent and tackle the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities. We have begun to meet with interested lobby groups and experts and hope to start work on this guidance very soon, with a view to launching it early next year. We intend to work closely with the Special Educational Consortium and other charities and groups with an interest in this area, drawing on current research. Once completed, this specialist guidance will form part of 'Safe to Learn'.

Local Education Authorities: Documents

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local education authorities lost records in the fire at the Iron Mountain facility fire at Bromley-by-Bow on 12 July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [147072]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information, and so we do not know which local education authorities lost records in this fire.

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on primary education: teaching methods, what the cost per pupil is of *(a)* the Every Child a Reader and *(b)* the Every Child Counts programme; [147163]

(2) if he will break down the average per capita cost of the Every Child a Reader programme in to *(a)* pay for specialist trained teachers, *(b)* materials for pupils, *(c)* central administration costs for the scheme, *(d)* marketing and *(e)* other costs; [147168]

(3) how many special teachers have been trained for the *(a)* Every Child a Reader and *(b)* Every Child Counts programme. [147169]

Jim Knight: The Every Child A Reader (ECAR) programme costs on average £2,300 per pupil. This unit cost breaks down as follows:

			£
Costs at school level over four years			
Start up costs			
Essential:			
Training Course	2,500	—	—
Core texts	30	—	—

			£
Costs at school level over four years			
May be needed:			
Children's books	200	—	—
Magnetic whiteboard and letters	100		
Maximum start up costs	—	2,830	
Running costs	—	variable	—
0.5 teacher time for teaching = £20,000 per year over four years	80,000	80,000	
Total cost to the school over 4 years	—	—	82,830
8-10 children served per 0.5 teacher time per year, average 9 children per year x 4 yrs = 36 children	—	—	Divided by 36
Cost to the school per child	—	—	2,300

Source:
The long term costs of literacy difficulties, KPMG Foundation December 2006

61 already trained specialist teachers have been re-activated and an additional 215 specialist teachers have been trained to work with children as part of the ECAR programme. ECAR is largely delivered in maintained mainstream schools although a small number of specialist teachers are delivering ECAR in special schools.

Funding of £20 million for implementing the Making Good Progress pilot in the first academic year, 2007-08, was announced on June 6 along with the details of participating pilot schools. There will be further funding for implementation in the second academic year which will be settled through the comprehensive spending review. The cost per pupil in 2007-08 will be approximately £300 and we anticipate that it will be similar in 2008-09. There will be no specific training programme for teachers in relation to the Making Good Progress pilot.

We will announce detailed allocations for Every Child Counts in due course. At this stage we do not know what the cost per pupil will be. It is likely that there will be specific training for teachers in the numeracy equivalent to Every Child A Reader when it is rolled out, the details of which (including the number of teachers to be trained) are yet to be decided.

Pupils: Attendance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the relationship between pupil achievement and pupil attendance at *(a)* Key Stage 1, *(b)* Key Stage 2 and *(c)* Key Stage 3. [147544]

Jim Knight: The research report "An Analysis of Pupil Attendance Data in Excellence in Cities (EiC) Areas and non-EiC EAZs" published in 2005 found significant associations between school attendance and performance at Key Stages 3 and 4. Data for 1999-2000 to 2000-03 were analysed for a sample of 454 schools; the profile of the sample schools was less advantaged than that of secondary schools nationally. The research also found a varying impact of high absence rates upon different groups of pupils, particularly in the case of pupil gender, and that the relationship was less significant when background characteristics of the schools were taken into account.

Pupils: Guardianship

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what mechanisms are in place to regulate or assess the quality of commercial guardianship services provided by UK organisations to overseas pupils at UK schools; how often such mechanisms are reviewed; and when the last such occasion was. [146494]

Jim Knight: Most overseas pupils are educated in independent schools. Guardianship arrangements set up by independent schools, and accommodation provided by independent boarding schools, including accommodation provided via host families, must meet national minimum standards. These cover suitability to work with children and the quality of boarding provision. These standards require all adult host family members and guardians to be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau, and are monitored through Ofsted inspection. Some independent schools use commercial guardianship services and in this case must satisfy themselves about the quality of service. However pupils placed under commercial arrangements are subject to the same level of monitoring through inspection against the national minimum standards.

It is also a legal requirement for a private foster carer to notify their local authority about private fostering arrangements. New measures in the Children Act 2004 and the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005, which came into effect in July 2005, strengthened the private fostering Notification scheme, and provided additional safeguards for privately fostered children. We have made it clear that if the Notification scheme does not work well, we will introduce a Registration scheme for private foster carers.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to tackle bullying in schools. [146395]

Jim Knight: The Government believe that all bullying is wrong and should never be tolerated in schools, and all our guidance makes this clear.

This year the Department will provide around £1.7 million for anti-bullying programmes, which covers the costs of grants to external organisations, as well as anti-bullying resources, the publication of guidance and support for local authorities and schools, and directly funded external events.

We provide comprehensive advice for schools setting out a range of proven strategies for tackling bullying. We are currently revising our over-arching anti-bullying advice to schools, which we propose to issue on-line in September under the title 'Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools'. This will include specific guidance on prejudice-driven bullying, with links to the guidance on racist bullying we first issued last year, and homophobic bullying guidance

specifically prepared for us by Stonewall and Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH). There will also be specific guidance on how to prevent and tackle cyberbullying. To complete this suite of guidance, we will also prepare specific advice on how to tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Education and Skills Select Committee recently examined bullying in schools, and their report welcomed key aspects of the Government's programme of work, including our main guidance and our guidance on prejudice-driven bullying. The Government's response was issued very recently.

We work with and fund a number of partners, including the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) who arrange the annual anti-bullying week, and provide a range of advice and support to local authorities; ParentLine Plus, who run a helpline for parents whose children are being bullied; and ChildLine in Partnership with Schools (CHIPS) who run peer mentoring schemes for the Department; and we also fund awards for anti-bullying work as part of the Princess Diana Memorial Awards scheme. We issue the anti-bullying charter to schools and have placed a duty on head teachers to determine measures to prevent all forms of bullying as part of their overall behaviour policy. More recently, we convened a taskforce to look at all aspects of cyber-bullying, made up of internet service providers, mobile phone companies, education professionals and those working in the youth justice system.

We are now shifting the focus of our anti-bullying work from campaigning to embedding effective practice in schools. To do this we are working with the national strategies to identify schools with weak and ineffective anti-bullying policies and provide targeted support to those schools; and with BeatBullying, a respected anti-bullying charity, to run a project on tackling inter-faith bullying, including Islamaphobia.

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated to the North East of England to tackle bullying in schools in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what progress has been made in reducing bullying; and if he will make a statement. [147154]

Jim Knight: Ring-fenced funding for anti-bullying campaigns is not made available on either a local authority or school by school basis. Rather it is a matter for schools and local authorities to decide how much of their budget they devote to this important work.

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Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 797W, on pupils: intimidation, (1) on what date his Department's work to tackle cyber-bullying began; [147165]

(2) how many staff worked on the anti-bullying strand of this programme in each financial year given, broken down by payband; [147171]

(3) whether reduced funding for anti-bullying work in 2005-06 was a result of decisions taken in the 2004 Spending Review process; [147172]

(4) how much funding his Department has given to each organisation listed since it started working with them; [147173]

(5) how many schools' anti-bullying policies have been classified as weak and ineffective; and how many such schools have received targeted support. [147174]

Jim Knight: Further to research published by Goldsmiths University on behalf of the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA), the Department first published interim guidelines on cyberbullying in July 2006. Around the same time, we formed the Department's Cyberbullying Taskforce, consisting of industry leaders, particularly Internet Service Providers and mobile phone operators, as well as education practitioners, the professional associations and law enforcement agencies (such as the Youth Justice Board) to develop a range of initiatives to combat cyberbullying in schools, and to ensure parents are provided with the information they need to keep their children safe online.

The team within the Department with responsibility for anti-bullying had, in 2003/04, the earliest year for which authoritative figures are available, one Grade 7, two Higher Executive Officers (HEOs), three Executive Officers (EOs) and one Administrative Officer (AO). Some of these officers also had other duties besides anti-bullying work. By 2005/06 the team consisted of one Grade 7, one Senior Executive Officer (SEO), one HEO and 60 per cent. of one EO, all working on anti-bullying work. By the following year this had changed to one Grade 7, two HEOs and 60 per cent. of one EO.

This decrease in funding was not a result of decisions made in the 2004 Comprehensive Spending Review. The increased funding in 2004-2005 can be accounted for by the launch of the Department's "Make the Difference" nationwide conference series on bullying, a high-profile series of events attended by over 5,000 heads and school staff.

Our records show funding as represented on the following table:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Childline	75,000	258,000	166,800	200,000	200,000
Parentline Plus	188,928	285,324	193,000	200,470	200,000
Anti-Bullying Alliance	—	—	480,064	600,628	632,943
Diana Awards	—	—	50,000	50,000	50,000
Beatbullying	—	—	—	—	80,000
Stonewall/ EACH	—	—	—	—	45,000
Childnet International	—	—	—	—	35,200

All figures are exclusive of VAT.

The programme of work to identify schools with weak and ineffective anti-bullying policies is carried out for the Department by the National Strategies Behaviour and Attendance team and they hold the relevant data. In order to maximise the participation of Local Authorities (LAs) and schools on this programme, the National Strategies have given an undertaking that they will not pass this information on to the Department. Bullying can often be covert and difficult to identify so we think it is important to ensure the problem is not driven underground by "naming and shaming" schools which are deemed to have weak and ineffective anti-bullying policies.

The National Strategies use a number of monitoring prompts to assess whether a school needs additional support with its anti-bullying work. One such prompt relates to the use of the Department's Anti-Bullying Charter for Schools. According to recent figures from the National Strategies nearly 75 per cent. of secondary and over 50 per cent. of primary schools use the principles of the Charter to draw up effective anti-bullying policies.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent per pupil in Warrington in each year since 1997. [146259]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The revenue funding figures per pupil in Warrington in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table:

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-4	2004-5	2005-06
Warrington	[1]—	2,310	2,510	2,700	2,960	3,200	3,450	3,550	3,910

[1] Figures are not available.

Notes:

1. The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). A sector breakdown for combined LA and school based expenditure is not available from 2002-03 and consequently this table shows the total LA recurrent expenditure (except youth and community) per pupil by LA since 1995-96.
2. 1999-00 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the R01 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 outturn forms collected by the DFES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of consistent financial reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the dotted line.
3. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DFES annual schools census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under five pupil numbers are taken from the early year census but are only included for 1999-00 onwards. For 1998-99 onwards other LA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from Form 8b submitted to the DFES. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained school drawn from the DFES annual school census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990s. Warrington was part of that reorganisation and figures are not available for 1997-98.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and are subject to change by the LA.

Schools: Capital Investment

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital expenditure has been allocated to *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years for which information is available. [146685]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain central records which analyse, for each capital funding stream, the proportion that relates to *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools in each local authority area. This is because local authority formulaic funding is not ring-fenced. When received by each local authority, it decides locally what proportion of formulaic funding shall be allocated to secondary schools and to primary schools.

The following table shows total schools capital allocations in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years.

Local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking and Dagenham	5,852	7,395	10,129	27,252	11,252
Barnet	12,024	18,533	15,102	41,490	13,379
Barnsley	61,039	10,122	7,161	8,407	6,603
Bath and North East Somerset	11,848	7,330	5,551	14,864	6,935
Bedfordshire	18,359	20,621	16,250	18,939	19,429
Bexley	23,749	16,812	12,540	44,948	10,378
Birmingham	102,593	54,287	40,367	45,833	46,130
Blackburn with Darwen	10,062	6,006	9,629	9,999	6,608
Blackpool	17,032	14,992	11,606	8,808	5,041
Bolton	15,167	11,403	9,322	24,214	11,793
Bournemouth	5,066	5,801	5,151	4,725	4,884
Sheffield	58,357	83,165	25,473	22,264	17,297
Bracknell Forest	8,648	4,203	4,313	4,273	4,388
Bradford	20,819	35,284	30,501	19,230	19,380
Brent	14,706	13,827	10,031	20,183	16,413
Brighton and Hove	7,338	13,357	5,487	6,424	6,929
Bristol, City of	73,789	16,368	17,296	14,456	14,699
Bromley	12,490	18,774	18,480	18,715	19,395
Buckinghamshire	27,460	26,443	21,055	21,583	21,365
Bury	7,556	10,833	5,283	18,571	6,854
Calderdale	9,555	15,093	7,437	8,548	8,933
Cambridgeshire	38,682	33,212	24,598	30,757	19,777
Camden	12,152	8,251	11,124	8,014	8,519
Cheshire	34,224	30,488	26,421	25,528	26,351
City of London	159	97	42	66	71
Cornwall	99,602	33,273	18,582	45,532	21,859
Coventry	13,574	15,234	13,453	19,656	12,685
Croydon	14,376	12,610	12,022	16,154	12,777
Cumbria	21,193	23,723	19,008	21,494	22,272
Darlington	44,980	4,199	4,454	24,954	4,074
Derby	53,692	12,763	9,404	21,546	10,164
Derbyshire	74,516	41,778	32,577	42,338	33,219
Devon	122,740	56,137	24,974	79,810	42,674
Doncaster	13,809	55,974	19,179	12,069	12,286
Dorset	22,855	16,276	18,933	64,634	15,462
Dudley	13,415	15,703	12,933	19,732	11,671
Durham	33,035	25,282	25,815	30,500	22,644
Ealing	16,392	77,589	13,936	21,999	9,530
East Riding of Yorkshire	20,432	21,642	16,997	26,299	14,475
East Sussex	24,402	23,721	17,703	20,647	17,526
Enfield	69,375	19,537	13,085	30,790	11,535
Essex	63,462	63,202	55,620	51,245	52,028
Gateshead	22,804	6,957	65,954	6,505	6,385
Gloucestershire	28,486	36,782	30,180	68,389	36,469
Greenwich	9,051	16,361	13,074	20,313	14,872
Hackney	11,470	13,356	7,739	10,229	9,473
Halton	6,969	4,879	5,611	10,727	5,217
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,987	10,900	4,972	11,879	6,012
Hampshire	70,786	62,874	50,886	59,906	55,967
Haringey	23,672	20,708	20,334	15,380	13,279
Harrow	6,422	6,574	7,055	17,804	6,909
Hartlepool	7,586	3,527	2,989	3,645	3,754
Havering	11,506	11,327	8,299	14,192	9,734
Herefordshire	27,643	8,354	8,712	6,982	7,140
Hertfordshire	43,353	60,759	63,787	69,203	50,055
Hillingdon	14,815	18,885	12,280	31,642	12,855
Hounslow	36,193	9,515	8,210	10,962	10,338
Isle of Wight	10,797	11,424	6,857	14,973	15,556
Isles of Scilly	285	228	153	141	144
Islington	9,417	11,314	7,039	6,152	6,455
Kensington and Chelsea	2,918	4,024	4,413	8,987	5,595
Kent	92,848	181,101	90,483	85,225	73,318
Kingston upon Hull, City of	10,691	10,871	8,365	6,487	8,348
Kingston upon Thames	10,942	14,951	5,992	42,583	8,255
Kirklees	17,253	19,324	14,004	19,523	16,454
Knowsley	7,495	6,688	8,225	10,391	4,750
Lambeth	15,125	22,195	12,750	20,815	16,382
Lancashire	62,607	44,234	38,067	54,715	46,664
Leeds	28,263	63,654	135,406	24,510	24,183
Leicester	12,329	18,259	25,540	12,986	7,434
Leicestershire	27,582	33,834	35,673	40,998	25,063
Lewisham	16,601	15,070	16,571	17,813	10,379
Lincolnshire	28,157	33,779	29,350	42,750	29,536
Liverpool	22,706	18,481	12,826	14,124	15,224
Luton	11,734	10,056	6,448	9,926	6,881
Manchester	56,424	24,853	14,980	21,696	22,141
Merton	7,293	5,836	5,446	15,810	10,762
Middlesbrough	10,039	7,013	6,228	4,199	4,734
Milton Keynes	29,083	39,116	30,991	52,464	42,610
Newcastle upon Tyne	16,280	70,368	8,523	12,485	8,336
Newham	50,660	16,028	17,193	11,488	8,414
Norfolk	39,292	108,282	34,492	70,474	39,356
North East Lincolnshire	7,718	7,521	5,967	19,020	7,199
North Lincolnshire	6,113	10,272	5,295	6,244	5,949
North Somerset	17,971	27,122	17,954	8,166	8,472
North Tyneside	11,528	7,134	5,839	18,584	6,964
North Yorkshire	34,086	27,377	22,037	56,547	25,610
Northamptonshire	130,466	36,015	25,035	38,845	25,829
Northumberland	13,730	15,920	11,700	14,269	14,691
Nottingham	10,402	17,579	10,488	13,337	9,464

Local authority	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Nottinghamshire	157,700	31,112	26,170	30,311	30,673
Oldham	14,042	71,191	14,087	11,664	11,539
Oxfordshire	33,394	36,896	36,248	26,789	27,536
Peterborough	13,297	68,781	16,579	26,830	7,447
Plymouth	16,397	56,593	11,728	20,747	11,994
Poole	6,161	4,952	4,202	18,394	6,595
Portsmouth	10,871	7,028	9,043	5,967	6,093
Reading	9,733	5,211	6,564	10,376	4,488
Redbridge	13,084	16,768	20,789	17,159	17,942
Redcar and Cleveland	59,355	5,903	4,910	17,476	5,662
Richmond upon Thames	4,277	6,056	9,584	39,317	9,844
Rochdale	12,033	69,346	7,485	8,781	8,829
Rotherham	18,005	10,396	8,163	11,708	10,359
Rutland	1,284	1,704	1,832	1,614	1,681
Salford	10,210	56,770	9,947	11,989	7,869
Sandwell	16,344	16,435	12,992	17,223	12,694
Sefton	16,930	12,079	13,303	19,464	12,294
Sheffield	58,357	83,165	25,473	22,264	17,297
Shropshire	10,822	10,366	13,800	12,695	10,865
Slough	7,618	52,188	4,498	25,645	6,134
Solihull	9,424	9,801	13,175	7,670	7,940
Somerset	19,249	21,831	18,240	28,632	21,312
South Gloucestershire	14,853	19,134	11,040	14,194	14,657
South Tyneside	6,596	21,922	5,150	4,439	4,479
Southampton	12,006	6,823	10,728	9,845	7,063
Southend-on-Sea	9,907	13,793	7,799	10,833	17,278
Southwark	12,593	27,031	21,199	16,184	16,080
St. Helens	7,152	6,772	5,783	18,936	7,056
Staffordshire	35,529	41,071	29,198	41,187	33,219
Stockport	11,709	10,731	11,518	11,232	11,395
Stockton-on-Tees	11,858	11,786	7,705	10,863	7,669
Stoke-on-Trent	11,333	14,891	6,973	5,235	5,263
Suffolk	34,673	44,931	31,273	34,765	28,079
Sunderland	13,436	11,049	9,287	12,925	9,881
Surrey	48,336	45,928	47,164	44,580	37,867
Sutton	11,286	8,702	8,125	12,637	10,299
Swindon	80,240	11,594	9,182	8,747	8,927
Tameside	9,008	11,616	11,327	11,427	8,976
Telford and Wrekin	77,507	12,310	7,550	14,879	7,830
Thurrock	11,007	13,289	8,904	22,969	17,604
Torbay	9,470	10,959	8,994	31,837	9,893
Tower Hamlets	8,912	8,586	17,942	14,296	15,028
Trafford	14,773	13,569	8,389	11,284	8,834
Wakefield	16,743	15,790	16,804	24,201	12,558
Walsall	19,361	17,518	13,384	23,948	12,428
Waltham Forest	10,364	10,260	10,752	6,967	7,032
Wandsworth	11,741	10,371	10,495	23,102	14,936
Warrington	8,821	8,006	9,805	12,092	8,152
Warwickshire	34,454	25,499	19,169	34,055	22,856
West Berkshire	7,647	7,957	6,546	19,358	7,575
West Sussex	30,799	34,381	36,018	43,006	31,828
Westminster	15,195	10,110	7,779	10,708	6,962
Wigan	19,790	17,511	10,370	24,387	12,775
Wiltshire	27,615	21,251	15,740	42,850	18,149
Windsor and Maidenhead	5,972	5,456	4,439	5,726	5,963
Wirral	18,774	14,354	13,418	18,486	12,401
Wokingham	9,042	12,002	5,185	18,035	6,246
Wolverhampton	10,311	15,655	9,498	26,755	11,125
Worcestershire	24,264	88,860	19,602	22,138	22,537
York	9,651	9,429	8,739	28,494	6,364

Schools: Employment Agencies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals teaching or managing in schools are paid through personal service companies (IR35), broken down by local authority; and what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on this matter. [146649]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

The decision whether to employ teachers and other school staff through personal service companies is a matter for individual schools or local authorities. Guidance is issued by the department with respect to safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education including through personal service companies. This guidance can be available in PDF format at the following URL:

http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=spectrum&ProductId=DFES-04217-2006&.

Schools: Religion

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what religious groups his Department has corresponded with in the past 12 months over possible sponsorship of *(a)* an academy and *(b)* a trust school. [146809]

Jim Knight: Officials are in regular contact with the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church who are actively involved in the Academies programme. Discussions have also taken place about potential Academy and/or Trust School projects with the Eastern Orthodox Church and a number of organisations who have a religious ethos, including Oasis, the United Learning Trust and the Multi Faith Secondary School Trust and the Salvation Army.

The Focus Learning Trust has made a number of representations to Government concerning the establishment of an Academy or a Trust school in which the FLT would have a role. There are no current proposals to establish any such Academy or Trust school.

Teachers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teaching posts were removed by each local education authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [146664]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Provisional figures show that between 1997 and 2007 there was an increase of 5,300 full-time equivalent number of teachers employed in local authority

maintained nursery and primary schools and 27,300 in local authority maintained secondary schools in England.

The source of information is the DFES annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618G.

Teachers: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology and *(d)* biochemistry graduates began teacher training in each of the last 10 years, broken down by class of degree. [146126]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 June 2007]*: The breakdown of Science courses into the individual specialisms is not available. The following table shows the number of entrants to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) mainstream Post Graduate (PG) science courses with a first UK degree in science or in a science-related subject by the classification of their first degree between 1998/99 and 2004/05.

		Degree classification					
	Total	*1st*	*2:1*	*2:2*	*3*	*Pass*	*Class not known or undefined*
1998/99	1,620	120	630	600	150	90	30
1999/2000	1,680	140	660	630	150	70	40
2000/01	1,790	150	710	650	160	90	30
2001/02	1,880	150	780	670	160	90	40
2002/03	1,940	180	760	730	160	100	20
2003/04	2,220	220	930	780	170	80	30
2004/05	2,100	220	900	720	180	70	10

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from Universities and other Higher Education (HE) institutions, School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and Open Universities (OU), but exclude Employment Based Routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
3. Figures include those entering ITT courses for secondary science and key stage 2/3 science.
4. UK first degree of science includes trainees with degrees in biology, chemistry and physics.
5. UK first degree of science related subject includes trainees with a degree which has an element of science, for example engineering.
6. Prior to 1998/99 data are not in a consistent format.

Source:
TDA performance profiles

Teachers: Standards

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on the educational attainments of pupils of being taught by unqualified teachers. [147453]

Jim Knight: No such assessment has been made.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training in teaching reading is provided to student teachers at university. [147212]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2007]*: The standards for qualified teacher status require that all trainee teachers have a secure knowledge and understanding of their subjects and curriculum areas. They are also required to demonstrate that they are able to put into practice in their teaching the relevant aspects of the National Strategies. In the case of all primary teachers, this means that they will receive training in the teaching of reading. This training will include phonics approaches, such as the teaching of high quality systematic phonic work, in accordance with the recommendations of the Rose Review. The standards for the award of qualified teacher status have recently been revised and strengthened in these areas.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers in the maintained sector have been trained by the Applied Scholastics programme; [147454]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the Applied Scholastics programme for *(a)* teachers and *(b)* pupils. [147455]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have information relating to how many teachers have been trained by the Applied Scholastic programme and has made no assessment of the Applied Scholastics programme for either teachers or for pupils.

Teachers: Working hours

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the hours an average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher spends on planning, preparation, assessment and other administration in each seven day period; and if he will make a statement. [147546]

Jim Knight: Information on the hours and working patterns of teachers is collected via the 'Teachers' Workloads Diary Survey' that is published by the Office of Manpower Economics. The most recent results relate to a single week in March 2006. The survey showed that on average full-time classroom teachers in primary schools spent 14.2 hours on 'Lesson planning/Marking'[1] and 5.0 hours on 'General Admin'[2]. Full-time classroom teachers in secondary schools spent 14.8 hours on 'Lesson planning /Marking'[1] and 3.0 hours on 'General Admin'[2].

We expect that the results of the 2007 survey will be published in the next couple of months.

[1] Lesson planning / Marking includes: planning/preparing lesson, practical test or assessment (including gathering materials); assessing/marking pupil work (including exam/test); writing reports on pupil progress (e.g. end of term report); other non-contact activities relating to a class or lesson.

[2] General admin includes: keeping records on pupil performance (e.g. for National Curriculum, school records, examination boards etc.); keeping records or department records (excluding those on pupil performance); organising resources and premises (e.g. building, equipment, books, computers); displaying / mounting pupils' work or information for pupils; setting up / tidying classroom, lab or other teaching area; simple clerical activity (e.g. photocopying, filing, routine form filling/database entry); other kinds of administrative activities.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contact his Department has had with Applied Scholastics since 1997. [147190]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Care Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* state funded and *(b)* privately funded care home places in (i) Cornwall and (ii) England per head of population. [146644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Neither the Department nor the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) collects data on population numbers. Information on the number of care and nursing homes and registered places is collected by CSCI as part of its registration and inspection activities.

The Office for National Statistics has supplied data on numbers of adults aged 18 and over in England and the Cornwall county council area. Numbers of care and nursing home places, in England and Cornwall as percentages of the numbers of adults aged 18 and over are shown in the table.

Care home places are not registered as state or privately funded; care is funded in a variety of ways. Depending on their circumstances, residents may fund their own care, or be partly or wholly supported by councils or the national health service, or organisations such as charities and previous employers. As a result, the same place may, at different times, be state or privately funded depending on the circumstances of the resident occupying it.

Area	*Places*[1]	*Number of adults aged 18 and over*[2]	*Number of places as a percentage of adults aged 18 and over*[3]
England	440,038	39,383,400	1.12
Cornwall	5,480	411,500	1.33

[1] Numbers include residential homes for older people and for younger adults (aged 18-64).
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 100. These data are Crown copyright.
[3] Percentages rounded to two decimal places.
Sources:
[1] CSCI report, The State of Social Care in England 2005-06.
[2] Office for National Statistics mid-2005 population estimates (latest available figures).

Care Homes: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many extra care housing places there are *(a)* taken up and *(b)* available in Cornwall. [146643]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spare capacity expressed in patient numbers is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee paying and *(c)* over 18 charge exempt people who want to register with an NHS dentist in Milton Keynes, broken down by dental practice. [146707]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Information is not available in the format requested. Since April 2006 patients have no longer been required to register with a particular dentist.

Information is held centrally on the number of patients broken down by adults and children who received care or treatment from a national health service dentist in the most recent 14 months. As at 31 March 2007 53.8 per cent. of patients in Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust had seen an NHS dentist at least once in the previous 24 months, for adults this was 47.0 per cent. and for children this was 74.6 per cent.

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staff in her Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is shown in the following table.

Date	*Percentage of staff over 60*
31 March 2005	1.0
31 March 2006	1.4
31 March 2007	1.7

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145704]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is shown in the following table.

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Age group	*Recruits*	*Percentage*	*Recruits*	*Percentage*	*Recruits*	*Percentage*
55 and over	5	4	14	5	1	1
60 and over	0	0	3	1	1	1

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in her Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145976]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The percentages of sick leave recorded on our sickness absence database in each of the last three years under a category defined as mental health, including depression, anxiety and potential stress related problems, were 32 per cent. for 2004-05, 22 per cent. for 2005-06 and 24 per cent. for 2006-07.

Departments: Written Questions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Parliamentary Questions were tabled to his Department between 1 January and 30 June 2007, broken down by *(a)* Ordinary Written and *(b)* Named Day; what percentage of Ordinary Written Questions were answered within 10 working days; what percentage of Named Day Questions were answered substantively by the date named; and what measures he is taking to ensure that Questions are answered within the (i) recommended and (ii) required time. [147021]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer2 July 2007]:* Between 1 January and 30 June we answered 839 Named Day Parliamentary questions, of which 497 (59 per cent.) were answered on the day specified. We also answered 3,812 Ordinary written questions, of which 1,296 (34 per cent.) were answered within 10 working days.

We endeavour to answer all parliamentary questions as quickly as possible and have been reviewing our internal processes. We are developing a replacement database which will enable us to better manage the end to end process and are also developing training for all those in the Department who prepare answers for Ministers to consider.

In the run up to the recent Government changes, we made a particular effort to answer outstanding questions and in the week up to 25 June we answered over 550. We will continue to seek improvement in our performance in this important area.

Disabled: Children

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* Cornwall's and *(b)* England's (i) total, (ii) adult and (iii) child population was registered disabled on the latest date for which figures are available. [146646]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Each local authority is required by law to maintain a register of disabled people living within its area for the purposes of planning and providing social services. However, registration is entirely voluntary, therefore the information held does not accurately represent the prevalence of disability. This information is not held centrally.

Health Services: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to allocate to *(a)* the Healthcare Commission, *(b)* the National Patient Safety Agency, *(c)* the General Social Care Council and *(d)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection (i) to promote public engagement in their activities and (ii) for communication purposes in (A) 2007-08, (B) 2008-09 and (C) 2009-10. [146201]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has allocated a budget to its arm's length bodies for 2007-08 and the detailed elements of each are set out as follows.

However, for 2008-09 and 2009-10, while overall indicative budgets have been allocated, the Department and the arm's length bodies have not yet agreed the detailed elements of their expenditure.

Healthcare Commission

The budget for the patient and public engagement team for 2007-08 is £0.775 million. Public engagement is also supported by other departments, as patients and the public are the primary focus of the Healthcare Commission's work.

The rest of the communications budget for 2007-08 is £3.117 million. This also includes public engagement in the form of running consultation events and communicating through written reports and the internet.

National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA)

The NPSA Business Plan for 2007-08 states that the Agency will ensure that patients and the public are involved in its work by developing and implementing an involvement strategy in 2007 that takes account of changes resulting from the review of the organisational arrangements to support patient safety, "Safety First" (December 2006). The sum of budget lines that relate specifically to patient and public involvement is £347,288.

Communications supports the Agency's activity and engagement with the national health service in England and Wales, including feedback reports to each NHS organisation, the work of the National Clinical Assessment Service, the work of the National Research Ethics Service, published guidance on improving medication safety and a high profile patient safety campaign to frontline workers, as well as patients and the public. The total budget for this is approximately £1.7 million.

The General Social Care Council (GSCC)

The GSCC has allocated a budget to its Corporate Communications Directorate in 2007-08 of £1.001 million (as shown in the GSCC Business Plan for 2007-08). However, the GSCC has not allocated this budget between the two criteria that are stated in the question.

The GSCC also has funding within the education support grant that is paid (by the GSCC) to higher education institutes for the involvement of service users and carers in the design and delivery of the social work degree courses. For 2007-08 the earmarked funding is £0.628 million. This funding for this activity is also quoted in the GSCCs Business Plan for 2007-08.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)

Communications and public involvement are a core function of CSCI's role. As a service regulator it is important that every aspect of CSCI's work involves communication with the public in general and, more specifically, with service users, their carers and families and with providers, commissioners and policy makers. By doing this, our work can encourage greater involvement in services, increase awareness of developments and issues in social care and raise the standard of service provision.

Therefore it is not feasible to completely separate the aspects of CSCI's work, and the budgets, which are specifically about public involvement and communication from those which are not.

However, there is a central function from which the core public and user involvement activities of CSCI are co-ordinated with a budget of £1.039 million for the current year. This budget does not cover all relevant expenditure on communications and public involvement, but it does cover the cost of user involvement activities such as experts by experience, involvement in inspections, user participation in improvement boards, conferences, methodology development etc. and accessible communications.

As well as the public and user involvement function, CSCI has a specific communications function which co-ordinates publications, events, marketing and web development. All of these activities are central to informing the public about and involving the public in CSCI's work.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of progress on the Government's target to reduce waiting times for audiology assessments to six weeks by March 2008. [146749]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data published on 13 June 2007 show that, at the end of April, 101,260 people were waiting longer than six weeks for an audiology assessment. This is a reduction of 37,409 since October and represents good progress towards the milestone.

Mentally Ill: Young People

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies he has *(a)* reviewed and *(b)* commissioned on levels of mental illness in young people, with particular reference to levels of clinical depression; what assessment he has made of those studies; and what steps his Department is taking to combat depression in young people. [146796]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Office for National Statistics 2004 survey "Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain" looked at the prevalence of mental health disorders. It found that 10 per cent. of young people aged 5-16 years had a clinically diagnosed mental disorder. This includes four per cent. with an emotional disorder (1 per cent. depression and 3 per cent. anxiety disorders).

In September 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a guideline on the treatment of depression in children and young people which also included advice on the detection and recognition of depression. It outlined the treatment options available—psychological therapies or medication. It recommended that medication should only be used rarely in the under 11 age group and should only be offered to the 12-18 group in more severe cases in addition to psychological therapy.

"The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services" (published in 2004), sets the framework for child and adolescent mental services (CAMHS) for the next ten years. It sets the standard that all children and young people, from birth to their eighteenth birthday, who have mental health problems and disorders, will have access to timely, integrated, high quality multidisciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them, their parents or carers, and other family members.

In the four years 2004-05 to 2007-08, we have invested over £400 million in additional funding for the development of CAMHS by the national health service and local authorities. It has assisted them in the achievement of the Department's public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS in every area.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts have led a health economy-wide approach to implementation of the DH Musculoskeletal Services Framework; and how many are on course to complete implementation by autumn/winter 2007; [146711]

(2) how many primary care trusts have led an assessment of health needs of those with musculoskeletal conditions; and how many are on course to complete an assessment by spring 2007; [146712]

(3) how many primary care trusts have mapped current musculoskeletal services and assessed future demand; and how many are on course to complete mapping by spring 2007. [146713]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* This information is not available centrally.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why musculoskeletal services are excluded from the Quality and Outcomes Framework; and whether consideration will be given to including them in the next review. [146714]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Musculoskeletal services are currently not included within the Quality and Outcome Framework. No proposals for musculoskeletal services were taken forward for the 2006 contract changes. As part of the ongoing development of the Framework, indicators will be reviewed in the light of emerging evidence, in the context of a value for money agreement.

New Deal for Carers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) over what time period the funding package announced in the written ministerial statement of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 49WS, on the new deal for carers will be spent; and how much has been spent; [146530]

(2) on what date she expects the national helpline for carers to be established. [146532]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The funding announced for the new deal for carers announced on 21 February 2007 is for the current financial year. Decisions on funding for future years will be announced following the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

In October, we will be giving councils their share of £25 million to develop short breaks for carers who are temporarily unable to care because of an emergency or other crisis. In addition, we will soon make up to £1 million available to key national organisations who are working with the Government to help provide greater support for carers.

The Department is working actively to achieve delivery of the national helpline and has been doing so in consultation with the national carers' organisations. It is our intention that the helpline will be in place in next summer.

Osteoporosis: Medical Treatments

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his estimate is of the cost to the NHS of treating patients with osteoporotic fractures of the *(a)* hip, *(b)* wrist and *(c)* vertebrae in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [146656]

(2) whether alternative treatments are available on the NHS to patients at risk of osteoporotic fracture who do not respond to the first line treatment prescribed by their general practitioner; [146657]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* treating an osteoporotic hip fracture and *(b)* providing treatments likely to prevent such fractures from occurring in the latest period for which figures are available. [146658]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has made no estimate of the overall cost to the national health service of treating patients with osteoporotic fractures. Nor has the Department estimated the individual cost of treating an osteoporotic hip fracture, or the cost of providing treatments to prevent osteoporotic fractures.

In its appraisal of the use of bisphosphonates in post-menopausal women, which was published in 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) estimated that among post-menopausal women, the cost to the NHS of fractures to the hip, forearm and spine was £942 million. Additionally, draft final guidance issued by NICE on 26 June 2007, acknowledged that the cost of treating post-menopausal women with Alendronate, the recommended therapy for both the initiation of primary and secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures, would be between £95.03 and £301.39 per patient per year.

This new set of guidance, which NICE expects to publish in final form in August 2007, covers the initiation of treatment only. The future NICE clinical guideline on osteoporosis will cover the treatment of women who cannot take or have withdrawn from treatment with Alendronate. Until this guideline is published, we expect NHS organisations to continue to provide treatments based on an assessment of the available evidence.

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the time taken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop guidance on treatments to prevent osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women. [146659]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued a Final Appraisal Determination on treatments to prevent osteoporotic fractures in post-menopausal women. This is a particularly complex appraisal and has taken longer to complete than would normally be the case. NICE operates a robust appraisal process, involving a full assessment of the evidence and public consultation on its draft recommendations. It is important that in the most complex cases, NICE is allowed to take sufficient time to ensure that final guidance it issues is of a high quality.

Pregnancy: Screening

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many amniocentesis procedures were carried out in each of the last three years; how many of the procedures resulted in a diagnosis for Down's Syndrome (Trisomy 21) or other chromosomal abnormalities; and how many of these resulted in a termination. [147416]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* Information on the total number of amniocentesis procedures carried out in the last three years is not collected centrally. Information on the number of amniocentesis tests that resulted in a diagnosis of Down's Syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities and the number of terminations as a result of Down's Syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities is in the following table.

Abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967 with amniocentesis used in the diagnosis of chromosomal anomalies, residents, England and Wales, 2004-06*

	Abortions performed because of Down's Syndrome	*Down's Syndrome diagnosed using amniocentesis*	*Abortions performed because of chromosomal anomalies other than Down's Syndrome*	*Chromosomal anomalies other than Down's Syndrome diagnosed using amniocentesis*
2006	436	195	336	114
2005	429	199	319	136
2004	419	183	307	104

Notes:

* That there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

Amniocentesis used as a method of diagnosis with or without an ultrasound and/or chorionic.

Information about method of diagnosis is missing for about 8 per cent. of abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d)* of the Abortion Act 1967.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Females: Small Businesses

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for Women what work is undertaken by the taskforce on women's enterprise; and what progress has been made towards the recruitment of a national network of 1,000 female entrepreneur ambassadors. [147150]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

If we matched US levels of entrepreneurship there would be 700,000 more businesses run by women in the UK. To help accelerate the UK towards the US levels of entrepreneurship, the Government established the taskforce on Women's Enterprise to advise it on specific steps to increase levels of women's business ownership in the UK. Under the co-chairmanship of Pam Alexander (CEO, SEED A) and Glenda Stone (CEO, Aurora), the taskforce is providing leadership on women's enterprise across Government and the regions, by recommending specific steps to increase women's business ownership. It is working with the Regional Development Agencies to ensure that women have access to the high-quality support and advice they require to start and grow their businesses.

Working alongside the taskforce is the Women's Enterprise Ambassadors' Network (WEAN). This network comprises inspirational women entrepreneurs, who are using their knowledge and experience to inspire more women to consider the option of starting a business. To celebrate the recruitment of the 1000th ambassador the first WEAN National conference, hosted by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), the then Minister for Industry and the Regions, took place at Lancaster House on Monday 25 June 2007. The conference was attended by 200 ambassadors from around the country.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Telecommunications: Fees and Charges

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the outcome was of discussions between his Department and Ofcom on British Telecom's decision to introduce an additional charge for customers who do not pay by direct debit; and if he will make a statement. [147092]

Mr. Timms: The independent regulator the Office of Communications (Ofcom) announced on 6 June that it will carry out a full review of communications providers' additional charges. Ofcom expects to announce the conclusions of its review in the autumn and progress may be monitored on its website at: www.ofcom.org.uk.

The review will cover charges for non-direct debit payments, as well as other additional charges including late payment, restoration of service and early termination fees. It will cover fixed and mobile operators, and pay TV services. Ofcom will look at the nature and level of charges levied by communications providers and how well signposted and transparent such charges are. It will investigate how far consumers are aware of additional charges, whether they are able and willing to shop around on the basis of core prices and additional charges rather than just core prices, and whether there are certain groups of consumers who are unable to do this and therefore may be disadvantaged.

On investigating this issue it has become clear that it would be wrong to look at BT in isolation. More than 40 per cent. of homes are provided with telephony services by operators other than BT, and the differentials for payment by non-direct debit range from no extra charge to £15 a quarter. Some providers provide no payment option other than direct debit.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144931]

Mr. Thomas: In the financial year 2006-07 the Department procured and installed 2,770 energy saving light bulbs and holds an approximate stock of 320; the latter will vary dependant on replacement requirements.

During the previous year 2004-05 the Department purchased approximately 4,700 energy saving light bulbs.

The Department installs energy efficient lighting throughout its estate as a part of its strategy to achieve the energy targets set out in the framework for sustainable development in Government.

Energy: Black Sea

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department has given to UK energy companies developing new energy resources in the Black Sea. [146196]

Mr. Thomas: While UK energy companies have been active for some time in the Black Sea states, UK Trade and Investment is not aware of any UK company involvement in the offshore development of new energy resources in the Black Sea itself. UK companies considering investment in that activity may wish to consider contacting UK Trade and Investment to discuss available assistance.

Information on the types of assistance available from UK Trade and Investment is available via the organisation's website.

Manufacturing Industries: Exports

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what new market opportunities for manufacturing exports were offered by Brazil and India at discussions with the United States and the European Union in Potsdam. [146856]

Mr. Thomas: The negotiations in Potsdam between the EU, US, Brazil and India have not led yet to agreement on the tariff reduction formulae for either trade in agriculture or trade in manufactured goods.

Consequently, discussions about market access for manufactured goods did not lead to new market opportunities being offered.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the level of the national minimum wage was for *(a)* adults and *(b)* younger workers (i) at its inception and (ii) at each further increase since then; what the date was of each increase; and what percentage of national average earnings each increase represented. [146574]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The national minimum wage rates are set in response to recommendations by the independent Low Pay Commission. The rate for workers aged 16-17 was introduced in 2004 in response to a Low Pay Commission recommendation. The rates have increased since inception as follows:

Table 1: The UK minimum wage

	Main rate (workers aged 22+) £ per hour	Development rate (workers aged 18-21) £ per hour	Workers aged 16 -17 £ per hour
1 April 1999	3.60	3.00	—
1 June 2000	3.60	3.20	—
1 October 2000	3.70	3.20	—
1 October 2001	4.10	3.50	—
1 October 2002	4.20	3.60	—
1 October 2003	4.50	3.85	
1 October 2004	4.85	4.10	3.00
1 October 2005	5.05	4.25	3.00
1 October 2006	5.35	4.45	3.30
1 October 2007	5.52	4.60	3.40

Table 2. The UK minimum wage as a percentage of median earnings

	Percentage		
	Main rate (workers aged 22+)	Development rate (workers aged 18-21	Workers aged 16-17
1 April 1999	43.6	64.5	—
1 June 2000	45.2	68.3	—
1 October 2000	44.3	66.0	—
1 October 2001	47.0	68.6	—
1 October 2002	46.3	68.1	—
1 October 2003	47.7	68.0	—
1 October 2004	49.5	72.3	—
1 October 2005	49.7	72.7	61.5
1 October 2006	50.2	73.4	65.0
1 October 2007	50.1	73.4	64.8

Note:
Calculated as the minimum wage rate as a proportion of the median wage for the given age group. The minimum wage is deflated back to the survey period using the average earnings index (excluding bonuses). October 2007 figures also based on forecast average earnings growth.
Source:
DTI estimates based on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics (www.statistics.gov.uk)

Post Offices: WH Smith

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what studies the Post Office has undertaken into the impact on surrounding sub-post offices of establishing post offices in WH Smith branches. [146115]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the managing director has been asked to reply direct to the right hon. Member.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when details will be announced of the compensation to be made to sub-post offices whose businesses are adversely affected by the opening of post offices in nearby WH Smith branches. [146806]

Mr. McFadden: Decisions on the location of post office branches and franchise agreements are operational issues for Post Office Ltd.

Postal Services: EC Action

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had *(a)* with ministerial colleagues and *(b)* at the European level on (i) the timetable for liberalisation of postal services across the European Union and (ii) the effect of liberalisation on the future of the Royal Mail. [146679]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's Ministers and officials have regular discussions with other Government Department colleagues on matters relating to the liberalisation of postal services. We also maintain ongoing dialogue with both the institutions of the European Union and the other member states.

The Government support the European objective of implementing a single market for postal services by 2009: by opening up the sector to competition in a gradual and controlled way, within a regulatory framework that ensures the sustained provision of a universal service.

Royal Mail management has welcomed the introduction of competition in postal markets. The Government have recently agreed a finance framework for Royal Mail to enable the company to modernise and improve its efficiency so that it can compete successfully in a liberalised market.

Trade Unions: Ballots

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library copies of the scrutineers' report on union ballots on political fund retention, held by the Certification Officer, from the last 12 months. [146877]

Mr. McFadden: There have been no union ballots on political fund retention in the last 12 months.

World Trade Organisation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made for the future of the World Trade Organisation Doha Round following discussions between the United States, the European Union, Brazil and India in Potsdam. [146851]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government regrets that G4 members failed to agree a common platform in the DDA negotiations. However, Pascal Lamy, the WTO

Director General, has made it clear that negotiations will continue in Geneva. We hope that all WTO members will now work with Pascal Lamy and the Chairs of the Negotiating Groups to try to take the negotiations forward. We are encouraging all WTO members to engage positively and constructively and to show the flexibility and commitment necessary to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion, and remain committed to achieving an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the DDA.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Voluntary Work: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will visit the Kettering voluntary network to discuss the challenges faced by the third sector in Kettering. [146394]

Phil Hope: Organisations like the Kettering Voluntary Network play a key role in supporting local third sector organisations and helping people to volunteer, and are an example of how local government and voluntary organisations can work together to improve local communities.

The Government are committed to developing an environment which enables the third sector to thrive and the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office works with the sector and other government departments to break down barriers which prevent people from volunteering.

I have asked an official from the Office of the Third Sector to contact Kettering Voluntary Network to arrange a visit to discuss the challenges faced by the third sector in Kettering.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 July 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Construction Industry

9. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what discussions he has had with employers' organisations and trade unions on skills shortages in the construction industry. [147644]

Mr. Timms: I have had no such meetings with the industry though I am looking forward to having discussions with them on a range of issues. My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), discussed skills and other matters with the industry and trade unions on many occasions.

Post Office Closures

10. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, how many voluntary and compulsory closures of post offices there will be over the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [147645]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have set out a policy framework for the future of the post office network and announced up to £1.7 billion to set the network on a more stable footing. Post Office Ltd. will need to make strategic changes to the network including the compensated closure of up to 2,500 sub-post offices by the end of 2008. The Post Office will carry out the programme on a compulsory basis to ensure that it meets the Government's objectives of maintaining a truly national network providing the right services in the right places.

Regulation

11. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what plans he has to reform the process of regulation. [147646]

Mr. Hutton: We have set out a range of measures to reduce the burden of regulation on business, the public sector and third sector. Further measures will be announced shortly.

The World Bank ranks us sixth in the world and first in the EU for ease of doing business.

Enterprise

13. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what recent measures he has introduced to encourage and support people who wish to start their own enterprise. [147648]

Mr. Timms: This Government continue to encourage and support people who wish to start their own enterprises via Business Link branded services. Business Link assisted 183,000 pre-starts in the year ending March 2007.

The Business Link website www.businesslink.gov.uk also attracted 7 million unique visitors in the year ending March 2007.

World Trade Organisation

14. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, if he will make a statement on progress in the World Trade Organisation talks. [147650]

Mr. Thomas: We regret that G4 members failed to agree a common platform in the DDA negotiations last week in Potsdam. We welcome Pascal Lamy's intention to continue negotiations in Geneva. We continue to encourage all WTO members to work constructively with Pascal Lamy and the Chairs of the Negotiating Groups to try to take the negotiations forward to achieving an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Round.

Insolvency Service

15. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Insolvency Service; and if he will make a statement. [147653]

Mr. McFadden: The performance of the Insolvency Service is assessed by Ministers following the submission of a quarterly report by the Agency Chief Executive, the most recent report being received in May 2007. Ministers also assessed the performance of the agency in setting its targets for 2007-08. The targets set for 2007-08 were announced in the House by way of ministerial statement on 29 March 2007.

Departmental Contracts

16. **Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanisms are in place to reduce the risk of corruption in the award or approval of contracts by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [147654]

Mr. Thomas: The Department is committed to meeting its legal and best practice obligations as set out in "Government Accounting" and the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. The Department has a zero tolerance policy for fraud and corruption.

Asphalt

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what volume of asphalt was produced in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what estimate his Department has made of the volume of asphalt which will be produced in the next five years. [147895]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics publishes data on natural bitumen, natural asphalt, asphaltites and asphaltic rocks as part of its annual publication 'Product Sales and Trade PRA 14500: Other Mining and Quarrying'. However, data for UK manufacturer sales are suppressed as being statistically disclosive.

The Quarry Products Association estimates that the asphalt industry produces more than 26 million tonnes of asphalt every year.

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work his Department is undertaking on the research and development of carbon sequestration in the United Kingdom. [147157]

Mr. Hutton: The Government announced in the Budget in March 2007 that a competition to build the UK's first commercial scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage will take place. As indicated in the recent "Energy White Paper", the competition is expected to launch in November and we intend that it will be up and running sometime between 2011 and 2014. Current indications are that we will be among the first—if not the first—in the world to do this.

The Government are also working towards a regulatory regime which will manage the safe and reliable storage of CO2 and does not conflict with international agreements. We currently expect to consult on UK regulation of CCS in November.

Regulatory work also includes amendments to international conventions and working towards the inclusion of CCS in the EU ETS. The UK has already taken the lead in proposing and securing amendments to the London convention and OSPAR treaties which legalise CO2 storage beneath the seabed, a major step towards enabling the implementation of CCS.

With Norway we have established a taskforce to establish the underlying principles for CO2 storage in the North sea basin. The work of the taskforce is progressing well and has already produced its first deliverable, a report on a set of common principles for the regulation and management for storing CO2 in geological formations beneath the seabed.

DBERR also supports research and development for carbon capture and storage (CCS) through the Technology programme. During 2005-06 some £3.5 million was set aside for Carbon Abatement Technologies of which £2.3 million has been allocated to CCS. This funding will continue through 2007 at which stage the new arrangements for the Technology Strategy Board and Energy Technologies Institute will be introduced.

Additionally £35 million has been allocated for the demonstration of components for CCS technologies. To date some £1.4 million of those funds has been set aside for one project.

Funding is also made available by the Research Councils. The following table outlines their expenditure on CCS research to date:

	£
2000-01	23,000
2001-02	42,000
2002-03	78,000
2003-04	30,000
2004-05	966,000
2005-06	1,072,000

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147610]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that no payments have been made to Common Purpose in any of the financial years 2003-04 to date.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146328]

Mr. Thomas: The DTI introduced a new finance system during 2003-04 and obtaining figures prior to 2003 from the old system would be at disproportionate cost.

(a): Yearly expenditure figures for management consultancy, since 2003

	£
2003-04	1,223,423
2004-05	24,586,199
2005-06	48,571,422
2006-07	40,188,012

(b): Yearly expenditure figures for external consultants and advisors since 2003

	£
2003-04	25,386
2004-05	8,662,643
2005-06	22,704,241
2006-07	17,658,011

Over the same period the Department did not spend £10 million or more on any single contractual consultancy service.

Government procurement exercises above £500 are subject to fair and open competition. We ensure that we follow procurement practices laid down by HM Treasury to achieve value for money.

Departments: Foreign Workers

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which agencies of his Department maintain offices overseas; in which countries each agency maintains an office; how many staff work in each; and what the cost of each office was in 2005-06. [144921]

[redacted] Thomas: I can confirm that my Department's [redacted]es do not have any offices overseas.

[redacted]re UK trade and investment operate overseas, the[redacted]dings are maintained and managed by the Fore[redacted]and Commonwealth Office.

Homosexuality: Intimidation

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken by the Government to tackle homophobic bullying in the workplace. [146397]

Mr. McFadden: The Government believe that workers should be able to work without fear of being bullied or harassed in the workplace. The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 provide specific protection against discrimination, victimisation and harassment in the workplace on the grounds of sexual orientation. Individuals who feel that they have been treated unfairly on those grounds may make a claim to an Employment Tribunal.

ACAS has published guidance on the legislation and provides a nationwide telephone advice line offering assistance to employers and employees on bullying and other employment issues.

The Department's Partnership at Work Fund has made available £1 million to a project involving Amicus, BT, Legal and General, BAE Systems and Royal Mail to address the issue of bullying in the workplace. The project promotes best practice and workplace initiatives to tackle bullying.

Post Offices: Cash Dispensing

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many free-to-use cash machines have been installed in sub-post offices. [147222]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the managing director has been asked to reply direct to my right hon. Friend.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many voluntary and compulsory closures of post offices he expects there to be over the next two years. [147649]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) earlier today.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* compulsory Post Office closures there will be over the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [147869]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have set out a policy framework for the future of the post office network and announced up to £1.7 billion to set the network on a more stable footing. Post Office Ltd. will need to make strategic changes to the network including the compensated closure of up to 2,500 sub-post offices by the end of 2008. The Post Office will carry out the programme on a compulsory basis to ensure that it meets the Government's objectives of maintaining a truly national network providing the right services in the right places.

Post Offices: Finance

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much of the funding allocated to the post office network by the Government have been allocated for *(a)* training, *(b)* new equipment and *(c)* marketing. [147219]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's investment of up to £1.7 billion for the post office network announced on 17 May 2007, (*Official Report* 17 May 2007, column 753) covers network change, continued annual subsidy and network losses. Decisions on funding for training, new equipment and marketing are commercial matters for post office management.

Post Offices: Stafford

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations Post Office Ltd. received in response to its consultation on the moving of the Stafford Crown Post Office to WH Smith; and how many of the responses raised problems about access. [147714]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the Managing Director has been asked to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Postal Services: Buses

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much subsidy was provided by local authorities for Postbus services in the last year for which figures are available. [146842]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* It is entirely a matter for individual authorities to decide any subsidy for Postbus services. I understand that the amount of subsidy provided by local authorities to support the Postbus service for the year ending 2006-07 was £442,000.

Power Stations: Peterhead

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column

144W, on Power Stations: Peterhead, what additional sequestration projects might be approved in the next *(a)* three months and *(b)* six months. [147821]

Malcolm Wicks: None. Any projects which go ahead following the competition to build the UK's first commercial-scale demonstration of Carbon Capture and Storage, announced in Budget 2007, will have to satisfy the relevant regulatory, planning and environmental requirements. In addition, the Energy White Paper committed Government to consult on what their power station consents policy should be with regard to carbon-capture readiness by the end of the year.

Productivity

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to improve UK productivity over the next 12 months. [147652]

Mr. McFadden: Over the past decade the Government have placed the objective of improving the UK's productivity performance at the heart of economic strategy and the policy agenda, which has successfully narrowed the productivity gap with our major industrial competitors.

Going forward, a wide programme of reforms has been designed under the Government's framework of five drivers of productivity in order to make further progress. My Department contributes to policies under all five drivers of productivity, but has particular responsibility for taking forward reforms under the enterprise and competition drivers. For example, under the enterprise driver, ongoing work on the Better Regulation Agenda and the Simplification programme, which my Department is leading, will help to create a better framework within which business can operate. Implementing the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 which received Royal Assent last year will also contribute to reducing the administrative burdens on business, and at the same time, increase transparency and improve confidence of investors in the UK economy.

We will work closely with other Departments to take forward the productivity agenda.

Safety: Furniture

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures the Government are taking to stop sofas and chairs which do not meet the fire safety regulations from being imported into the UK. [146802]

Mr. Timms: Liaison between local authority Trading Standards officers and HM Revenue and Customs on furniture imports has resulted in furniture being detained and convictions obtained for non-compliance with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. HM Customs issued an Intelligence Trend Alert in December 2006 to its detection enforcement staff to raise their awareness of the potential risks posed to the public by sofas consigned from Poland. Also, officials from my Department have twice visited Poland to increase awareness of the FFRs and the Polish embassy has written to Polish manufacturers to do the same.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Babies: Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the number of newborn babies taken into care in North Tyneside in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [147589]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has received no representations regarding the number of newborn babies taken into care in North Tyneside in the last three months.

Children: Protection

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in Key Stages 3 and 4 were classified as *(a)* at risk and *(b)* in need in each of the last five years; [147615]

(2) how many young people in post-compulsory education aged 16 to 18 years were classified as *(a)* at risk and *(b)* in need in each of the last five years; [147616]

(3) how many children of primary school age were classified as *(a)* at risk and *(b)* in need in each of the last five years. [147617]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The available data are shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the number of children in need who received a service during the children in need census weeks in February 2003 and February 2005 in England.

Table 2 provides information on the number of children and young people on the child protection register in England in the last five years by age.

The majority of children in need do not enter the child protection system so the figures shown in Table 2 represent a subset of those children in Table 1.

Table 1: Children in need who received a service during the census week in February 2003 and February 2005[1, 2]—England

		Age during the February census week				
	Number	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 and over
2005	234,700	14,400	44,200	52,300	83,100	40,700
2003[3]	226,700	12,900	47,400	50,500	78,400	37,500

[1] Children upon whom the local authorities expended resources, either in terms of costed staff or centre time, or in terms of payments for placements or other services received by the child, including one-off payments.
[2] Children are looked after by social services or supported in families and independently.
[3] Includes estimates for four local authorities who did not return data.

Table 2: Children on the child protection register at 31 March each year, by age—England

		Age as at 31 March				
	Number[1]	under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 and over
2006	26,400	3,000	7,600	7,600	7,300	490
2005	25,900	3,000	7,400	7,400	7,300	490
2004	26,300	2,900	7,300	7,600	7,600	490
2003	26,600	2,800	7,600	7,700	7,600	510
2002	25,700	2,600	7,500	7,600	7,200	520

[1] Includes unborn children.

The latest figures on children and young people on the child protection register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 45/2006 "Referrals, assessments and children and young people on child protection registers, England—year ending 31 March 2006" on 16 November 2006. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Figures on children in need for 2003 and 2005 were published in Statistical Volumes in February 2004 and March 2006, respectively; and are also available on the Department's website.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147058]

Kevin Brennan: The information for the period April 2006 to March 2007, for the former Department for Education and Skills is set out in the following table.

Periods of sick leave less than 5 days	*Number of staff*
5 or more	141
4	132
3	231
2	439

The Department has agreed year on year sickness absence targets with Cabinet Office. Our ultimate goal is to reduce sickness absence levels to seven days per full-time equivalent member of staff by 2010.

Physical Education

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for workforce development on physical education and sport; and if he will make a statement. [147265]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Training and Development Agency for Schools has a remit to support the continuing professional development of teachers. Funding for this area is devolved to schools, which are best placed to decide what activities meet the needs of the school and the individual teachers working there. Additional support is available through the PE and School Sport Professional Development Programme which allows schools to draw, free of charge, from a menu of resources to help teachers raise the quality of the PE and school sport they provide.

Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who moved from primary school to secondary school attained an average of level 4 or below at key stage 2 in each year since 1997. [146122]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Key stage 2 test levels of attainment by subject, 1995 to 2006[1]

	Percentage of pupils at each level												*Percentage at level:*	
	A	*TID*	*B*	*N*	*W*[2]	*I*[2]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[3]	*Total*	*4 or above*	*5 or above*
English														
1995	4	0	—	0	0	1	7	39	41	7	0	100	49	7
1996	3	0	—	2	0	1	5	30	45	12	0	100	57	12
1997	3	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	16	0	100	63	16
1998	2	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	17	0	100	65	17
1999	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	20	48	22	0	100	71	22
2000	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2001	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2002	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2003	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	16	48	27	—	100	75	27
2004	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	50	27	—	100	78	27
2005	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	52	27	—	100	79	27
2006	1	0	4	1	—	—	1	14	47	32	—	100	79	32
Mathematics														
1995	4	0	—	5	0	1	7	37	32	12	0	100	45	13
1996	3	0	—	2	0	1	5	34	40	14	0	100	54	14
1997	3	0	3	2	—	—	2	28	44	18	0	100	62	18
1998	2	0	3	3	—	—	1	31	42	17	0	100	59	17
1999	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	23	45	24	0	100	69	24
2000	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	21	47	24	0	100	72	25
2001	1	0	2	2	—	—	1	22	45	25	0	100	71	25
2002	1	1	2	2	—	—	1	20	46	27	0	100	73	28
2003	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	19	44	29	—	100	73	29
2004	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	19	43	31	—	100	74	31
2005	1	0	3	2	—	—	1	18	44	31	—	100	75	31
2006	1	0	3	2			1	17	43	33	—	100	76	33

Key stage 2 test levels of attainment by subject, 1995 to 2006[1]

	Percentage of pupils at each level												*Percentage at level:*	
	A	*T/D*	*B*	*N*	*W*[2]	*1*[2]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[2]	*Total*	*4 or above*	*5 or above*
Science														
1995	5	0	—	2	0	0	4	19	48	22	0	100	70	22
1996	4	0	—	1	0	0	4	28	48	14	0	100	62	14
1997	3	0	2	1	—	—	1	23	50	18	0	100	69	19
1998	3	0	2	1	—	—	1	23	53	16	0	100	69	16
1999	2	0	2	1	—	—	0	16	51	27	0	100	78	27
2000	2	0	2	1	—	—	0	11	50	34	0	100	85	34
2001	2	0	1	0	—	—	0	9	53	34	0	100	87	34
2002	1	1	1	0	—	—	0	9	49	38	0	100	86	38
2003	1	0	2	0	—	—	0	10	46	41	—	100	87	41
2004	1	0	2	1	—	—	0	10	43	43	—	100	86	43
2005	1	0	2	1	—	—	0	10	40	47	—	100	86	47
2006	1	0	2	1	—	—	0	10	41	46	—	100	87	46

[1] Figures for 2006 are based on revised data. Figures for all other years are based on final data
[2] Levels W and 1 were valid in 1995 and 1996 only. Level 6 was valid from 1995 to 2002 only.
'A' represents pupils who were absent.
'T' represents pupils working at the level of the assessment but unable to access the test.
'D' represents pupils disapplied from teacher assessment.
'B' represents pupils who were working below the level of the test.
'N' represents pupils who took the tests but failed to register a level.
'W' represents pupils who are "working towards" level 1 but have not yet achieved the standards needed for level 1.

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W, on primary education: teaching methods, (1) how much has been allocated to provide one-to-one tuition for 300,000 pupils in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics over the comprehensive spending review period; [147162]

(2) what the Department's planned trajectory is for the provision of one-to-one tuition in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics to 300,000 pupils by 2010-11. [147164]

Jim Knight: In the CSR it was announced that, by 2010-11, 300,000 pupils across both primary and secondary will be receiving one-to-one tuition in English and a further 300,000 pupils in maths.

The Department will make further announcements on the allocation of its CSR settlement, and on the planned trajectory for the provision of one-to-one tuition, in due course.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent per pupil in Stockton-on-Tees in each year since 1997. [147289]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil in Stockton-on-Tees in each year since 1997 are provided in the following table:

Year	£ *Funding per pupil*
1997-98	2,360
1998-99	2,580
1999-2000	2,680
2000-01	2,910
2001-02	3,260
2002-03	3,550
2003-04	3,820
2004-05	4,080
2005-06	4,430

Notes:
1. The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). A sector breakdown for combined LA and school based expenditure is not available from 2002-03 and consequently this table shows the total LA recurrent expenditure (except youth and community) per pupil by LA since 1995-96.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 Outturn forms collected by the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the Outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the line.
3. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under 5s funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under 5 pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included for 1999-2000 onwards. For 1998-99 onwards other LA maintained pupils are included in the pupil count. This includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from Form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained school drawn from the DfES Annual School Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and are subject to change by the LA.

Pupils: Qualifications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) to how many GCSEs *(a)* a CACHE Foundation Award in Caring for Children and *(b)* a CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Child Care and Education are considered to be equivalent for the purposes of GCSE performance tables; [147307]

(2) to how many qualifications included in the secondary school (GCSE and equivalent) performance tables are considered to be equivalent to *(a)* three, *(b)* four and *(c)* five or more GCSEs. [147308]

Jim Knight: Information on the equivalence of all qualifications used in the achievement and attainment tables is published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the National Database of Accredited Qualifications at:

http://www.ndaq.org.uk/

Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the outcome was of the review of refuge for runaway children; and when he will publish the report of the review. [147419]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* This review was carried out by Barnardo's. Their report on the six community-based refuge pilots, and a separate "Lessons Learned" summary, will be published shortly. Officials are working closely with Barnardo's to finalise the report, including updating the text to reflect the Department's new name. Copies of the final versions will be placed in the House Library.

Schools: Sport

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the allocated budget is for school sport at non-specialist sports colleges. [147264]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* Every school in England receives funding to deliver the Physical Education National Curriculum as part of their core funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant—£28.3 billion in total in 2007-08. In addition, investment in the National School Sport Strategy has been £978.5 million in the five years to 2008, covering every maintained school in England. It is for schools and School Sport Partnerships to decide how they allocate their funding.

Teachers: Stockton-on-Tees

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were employed in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in Stockton-on-Tees in (A) 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [147292]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in Stockton-on-Tees local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in January 1997 and 2006, the latest year for which figures are available.

Local authority level information for 2007 is due to be published in September on the Department's website.

Full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants in service in nursery/primary and secondary schools in Stockton-on-Tees local authority, January 1997 and 2006

	Teachers[1]		Teaching assistants	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
1997	810	750	160	10
2006	820	840	240	100

[1] Excludes occasional teachers.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies 618 g (teacher numbers), School Census (teaching assistants).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Durham

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list all *(a)* consents and *(b)* refusals of consent since 1 May 1990 under the Allotments Act 1925 for the disposal of allotment land or its use for other purposes, involving allotment sites in the district of Derwentside. [147414]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* Derwentside district council has not submitted any applications to the Secretary of State under the Allotments Act 1925 for the disposal of allotment land in their area since 1 May 1990.

Council Tax: Students

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the liability for council tax is of a full-time student sharing one dwelling with three others. [148285]

John Healey: Properties occupied wholly by students, who meet the criteria set out in the Council Tax (Discount Disregards) Order 1992, are exempt from council tax under Class N of the Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings Order) 1992.

Where a property is shared by students and non-students then the students are disregarded under the provisions of the Council Tax (Discount Disregards) Order 1992 for the purpose of calculating whether a single person discount should apply. By virtue of section 6(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by section 74 of the Local Government Act 2003, the students are not jointly and severally liable for any council tax bill, but it is a matter for the occupiers to determine how any council tax costs should be shared.

Liability for any council tax due on a property occupied in part by students will fall to the landlord, rather than occupants who are not students, if the property is deemed to be a house in multiple occupation within the meaning of Class C of the Council Tax (Liability for Owners) Regulations 1992.

Local Government: Somerset

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations of *(a)* support and *(b)* opposition have been received for the unitary bid for Somerset local government from (i) hon. Members, (ii) district councils in Somerset, (iii) parish councils, (iv) the public through polls or opinion surveys, (v) businesses and (vi) other organisations in Somerset; and if she will make a statement. [146608]

John Healey: Our stakeholder consultation ended on 22 June and we are now analysing the responses received. All representations will be taken into account before decisions are made on which proposals should proceed towards implementation. The Government will publish a summary of consultation responses and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to support Local Sector Independence Day on 4 July. [147214]

John Healey *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Department has updated information about the third sector on our website, with a link to the Commission for the Compact website and information about Local Sector Independence Day.

We have worked with Compact Voice in preparing a third sector strategy discussion document, on which we are inviting comment by 20 September 2007, which recognises the importance of effective local relationships with an independent voluntary and community sector. As part of this approach Compact Voice are running a workshop for departmental officials on local Compacts.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Gambling: Licensing

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department plans to discharge its commitment to review the premises licence fees charged by local authorities under the Gambling Act 2005; and if he will make a statement. [148283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are currently collating the information from licensing authorities on the fees they have set under the Gambling Act 2005 and associated statutory instruments. We intend to publish this information in due course.

This will help the Department reach a view on whether the maxima have been set at the right level and whether they need to be adjusted, up or down, before the next financial year.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's estimate is of the average premises licence fee charged by local authorities under the Gambling Act 2005; and what the maximum fee level is. [148284]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are currently collating the information from licensing authorities on the fees they have set under the Gambling Act 2005 and associated statutory instruments. We intend to publish this information in due course.

Maximum fees levels were set in the Gambling (Premises Licence Fees) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on recent conflict in the Myanishen district of Kandahar province; whether the Taliban is in control of this district; and if he will make a statement. [145100]

Des Browne: Myanishen district centre is under Afghan Government control after a short period of Taliban occupation.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters are dedicated for medical lift in Afghanistan. [145197]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The UK does not fit helicopters specifically for the medical role but rather has dedicated and fully equipped specialist medical teams that can use any helicopter. There is always a helicopter available to deploy these teams in an emergency. In addition UK forces have access to the medical evacuation capabilities of ISAF and coalition partners in Afghanistan.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average time for medical evacuations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [145198]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The time taken to give treatment to wounded soldiers is more relevant than evacuation time as some life saving treatment can be delivered before an evacuation takes place. The Department is undertaking an audit on the time taken to deliver treatment in accordance with UK and NATO guidelines which are as follows:

Battlefield advanced trauma life support within one hour of injury.

Damage control surgery should be started within two hours of injury.

Primary surgery should be started within four hours of injury.

I will write to the hon. Member once the result of this audit is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capacity of medical facilities and supplies in Afghanistan to respond to an event with significant numbers of casualties. [145199]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* The medical planning undertaken by UK forces has put in place appropriate procedures and sufficient resources in Afghanistan to handle incidents producing significant numbers of casualties.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme will support up-skilling throughout *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the rest of the UK beyond the Armed Forces; and what discussions his Department has had on supporting up-skilling. [146844]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence is actively participating in a cross-departmental committee to assess how the Defence Training Review Programme can link with the Government's broader skills agenda. As much of what the armed forces do on a daily basis is vocational, we aim to ensure that training is accredited to nationally recognised vocational qualifications. On 14 June the armed forces signed a Skills Pledge confirming its commitment to support its employees to gain the skills and qualifications that will support their future employability, not only in Wales, but across the UK.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will require the Defence Training Review preferred bidder to hold discussions with Persimmon Homes and Barratts on planning gains for the Defence Military Academy at MOD, St. Athan from the development of Llandow Newydd. [147278]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: To date no decision on the procurement option for service families accommodation has been made. The options to be considered will include a solution from the preferred bidder alongside in-house options and any opportunities in the local market.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where he expects the new accommodation for trainees and military and civilian staff at the military training academy MOD St. Athan to be located. [147281]

Derek Twigg: Work to agree specific site plans of the proposed MOD St. Athan site is ongoing. All single living accommodation will be located within the MOD St. Athan boundary; however the location of service families accommodation is still to be determined.

Army Board: Expenditure

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenses incurred by partners of members of the Army Board may be claimed for from his Department; and how much was spent on those expenses in 2006, broken down by type. [130547]

Derek Twigg: Spouses may, exceptionally, accompany Service personnel and civil servants to official functions or events in the UK or overseas, where there is a clear public interest in doing so.

In 2006, a total of £12,769.83 was paid by the Department for air travel relating to attendance at official representational events overseas by spouses of the non-ministerial members of the Army Board. No other expenses were incurred.

BAE: Contracts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from the US Administration on the subject of contracts obtained by BAE Systems; and if he will make a statement. [147211]

Des Browne *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* None.

Departments: BAE Systems

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials from his Department applied to join BAE under the business appointments procedure in each of the last 10 years. [146952]

Des Browne: The number of staff (both civilian and military) from the Department who have submitted applications under the business appointments process to join BAE over the past 10 years is as follows:

	Number of business applications where BAE quoted
1997	14
1998	14
1999	7
2000	13
2001	17
2002	21
2003	7
2004	7
2005	9
2006	21
2007 (to June)	17
Total	147

This information has been compiled from manual historic records of business appointment applications where 'BAE' has been quoted in the record and a date given. It is therefore possible that some cases may not be included in these figures.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146991]

Derek Twigg: The number and value of non-pensionable bonuses awarded to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of SCS covered by the MOD Main pay deal (excluding Trading Funds and Agencies) over the past three years, are listed in the following Tables 1 to 4. The Ministry of Defence also awards special bonuses to individuals and teams for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of professional qualifications which benefit MOD and the individual; these are shown in Table 4.

Table 1: Bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	Number of bonuses	£ Value of bonuses
2004-05	136	711,737
2005-06	184	918,000
2006-07	181	1,178,500

Table 2: Bonuses paid to senior fixed term appointments

	Number of bonuses	£ Value of bonuses
2004-05	14	112,329
2005-06	10	65,586
2006-07	10	73,191

Table 3: End of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS (excluding MOD Trading Fund Agencies)

	Number of bonuses	£ Value of bonuses
2004-05	36,043	29,312,275
2005-06	38,766	37,962,800
2006-07	46,463	36,197,006

Table 4: Special bonuses (excluding MOD Trading Fund Agencies)

	Number of bonuses	£ Value of bonuses
2004-05	10,074	3,962,482
2005-06	10,131	4,364,400
2006-07	9,542	3,640,506

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146915]

Derek Twigg: There were no members of the senior civil service who did not perform satisfactorily in the 2006-07 reporting year. Staff below the senior civil service who are performing less than satisfactorily are separately identified. This process operates from the end of the reporting period for the pay band/skill zone (February to April) through to late July 2007. As the process is not yet complete it is too early to provide the information. I will write to the hon. Member when the data are available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his Department's top level budget holders and their related management groupings in each financial year since 1997. [146960]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is available in the 'MOD Organisation and Resource Account Code Hierarchies' document, which is produced annually. Copies are available in the Library of the House covering the period from 2000-01, when the Chart of Accounts was first adopted for financial management purposes in the Ministry of Defence.

Depleted Uranium: Irish Sea

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many depleted uranium shells were fired into the Irish Sea and the waters feeding into the Irish Sea in each of the last 30 years. [146891]

Derek Twigg: No depleted uranium (DU) shells have been fired into the Irish Sea. DU projectiles have been fired from Kirkcudbright into the Solway Firth since 1982 and the numbers fired to date are shown in the following table.

In addition, during 1988 and 1990, 100 and 215 rounds of depleted uranium ammunition respectively were fired into Luce Bay, West Freugh, as part of experimental firings to examine the ricochet effects of ammunitions from the Phalanx weapons system following first water impact.

The table has been compiled from individual entries in a daily log maintained at Kirkcudbright. While preparing this table, differences were noted between the annual totals obtained on this occasion and the information published in *Hansard* on 12 March 2001, *Official Report*, column 411W, in answer to a similar question. The reason for the discrepancies is because some preparatory rounds, which did not contain DU, were included in the earlier data.

	Numbers fired (including malfunctions)
1982	9
1983	56
1984	194
1985	152
1986	118
1987	151
1988	272
1989	434
1990	783
1991	666
1992	781
1993	682
1994	458
1995	286
1996	105
1997	734
1998	134
1999	136
2000	270
2001	126
2002	0
2003	192
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
Total	6,739

Depleted Uranium: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much depleted uranium ammunition has been used by British forces in *(a)* Operation Telic and *(b)* Operation Herrick since 2003. [147526]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on the 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 831W.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plans to extend the eligibility for the HM forces Veterans' Badge to the Royal Observer Corps. [147398]

Derek Twigg: The armed forces Veterans Badge was introduced for all those who had served in HM armed forces. We are currently considering the position of the Royal Observer Corps in this respect and I will write to my hon. Friend when this work has been completed and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Casualties

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed in Iraq since March 2003. [147354]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence publishes data on battle and non-battle fatalities and casualties that have resulted from our operations in Iraq since March 2003: details can be found on the Ministry of Defence website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

This information is updated on a two weekly basis in arrears. Since January 2006, improvements in reporting mean that more detailed information can be made available. Work continues to verify and validate data for aeromedical evacuations and field hospital admissions in Iraq prior to January 2006. Once this data is compiled it will be added to the website.

As at 2 July 2007, a total of 156 British armed forces personnel or MOD civilians have died serving on Operation Telic since March 2003. Of these, 121 are classed as Killed in Action or Died of Wounds. 35 are known to have died either as a result of illness, non-combat injuries or accidents, or have not yet officially been assigned a cause of death pending the outcome of an investigation.

Over the same period, centrally available records show that 60 UK military personnel were categorised as Very Seriously Injured from all causes and 117 were categorised as Seriously Injured from all causes (in both cases excluding disease).

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the rate by which *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* helicopters and *(c)* fixed-wing aircraft in service in Iraq and Afghanistan are not lasting for their expected life-span. [145104]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 17 May 2007 on an issue related to the Grievance Appeal Panel. [146710]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 5 July 2007. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to secure the future operation and maintenance of the runway at MOD St. Athan. [147286]

Derek Twigg: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the maintenance of the runway at MOD St. Athan. MOD continues to operate and use the runway as part of the Airfield Management Agreement between the two parties. These arrangements are currently under review.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the preferred bidder for the Defence Training Academy, MOD St. Athan has to re-open St. Athan Halt or construct a new railway station. [147287]

Derek Twigg: A decision on the provision of a new or refurbished railway station is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. An application for planning permission to develop Defence Training Review Facilities at St. Athan is being prepared by the preferred bidder in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council. A traffic impact assessment study and green travel plan will also be prepared. The proximity of the site to the revitalised Cardiff-Bridgend railway line is a considerable asset in the consideration of sustainable development at St. Athan.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will require the Defence Training Review preferred bidder to make an assessment of the impact of the new build at the Defence Training Academy, MOD St. Athan on the surface water and drainage in the immediate locale, with particular reference to the village of Boverton. [147288]

Derek Twigg: An Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out to support the preferred bidder's planning application to develop the MOD St. Athan site. This assessment will include, among others, the impact of development on surface water and drainage to the surrounding area.

NATO: Military Bases

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to move NATO joint headquarters from Rheindahlen to RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [147239]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Innsworth site is one of several options being assessed as a possible UK base for the Headquarters of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, currently based at Rheindahlen, Germany. A final decision will not be made before this autumn, and a move would not take place until 2009 at the earliest.

Service Personnel: Psychiatric Care

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities are available for psychiatric treatment of troops on return to Stockport after service in Iraq and Afghanistan. [147260]

Derek Twigg: Our mental health services are configured to provide community-based mental health care in line with national best practice, providing assessment and treatment in line with the guidelines and standards set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the National Service Frameworks. We do this primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental healthcare. The geographical location of care is dependent on many factors, including the clinical need and where the service man or women is currently serving. The geographically closest DCMH to Stockport is situated at Donnington near Telford.

In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in psychiatric units belonging to the Priory Group, through a central contract with MOD. The geographically closest Priory Group Facility used by the MOD is the Priory hospital, Altrincham.

Any mobilised servicemen or women injured on operational deployment is entitled to, and will receive the same level of medical treatment and support, irrespective of whether they are members of the regular or reserve forces.

Once demobilised it is a long established tradition that reserve forces' medical welfare becomes the responsibility of their own local NHS primary care trust and the majority of veterans' physical and mental health needs are met by these provisions. However, the MOD recognises that it has an expertise to offer in certain specific circumstances, and in November 2006 launched the Reserves Mental Health programme.

The RMHP is open to any current or former member of the UK Volunteer and Regular Reserves who has been demobilised since 1 January 2003 following an overseas operational deployment as a reservist, and who believes that the deployment may have adversely affected their mental health. Under the RMHP, we liaise with the individual's GP and offer a mental health assessment at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire. If diagnosed to have an operational-related mental health condition, we then offer out-patient treatment at one of the DCMHs (e.g. Donnington). If more acute cases present, the Defence Medical Services will assist in obtaining access to NHS in-patient treatment.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* NATO, *(b)* European Union and *(c)* UN colleagues on the ending of offensive Sudanese flights over Darfur. [147434]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The Government are giving consideration to a number of measures to the monitoring of air activity over Darfur. We need to assess the logistical challenges of implementing any measures and their impact on the humanitarian effort. We are working with partners in the UN Security Council to press both the African Union and the UN Panel of Experts to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of any instances of offensive military flights in Darfur. The Defence Ministers have not held formal discussions with NATO, EU or UN colleagues on this issue.

Territorial Army: Recruitment

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the level of recruiting has been to the Territorial Army for other ranks for the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many of these recruits passed their phase 1 and 2. [146765]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2006-07, there were 6,400 enlistments to the Territorial Army ranks. Ex-regular soldiers and TA who rejoin are exempt from phase 1 training due to their previous experience, and some specialists e.g. medics undertake separate training in support of their civilian professional qualifications. Moreover, some personnel take more than 12 months to complete their training. There is, therefore, no direct correlation between enlistments and phase 1/phase 2 passes in any given period.

In 2006-07, 1,279 non-infantry TA personnel completed phase 1 training and 567 infantry personnel completed their combined phase 1/phase 2 training. Output figures for non-infantry phase 2 training are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the Cabinet Office's responsibilities with regard to the 2012 Olympics. [147844]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 39WS.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Shows: Minsterley

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to visit the Minsterley Show in 2007. [147669]

Jonathan Shaw: Decisions have not yet been taken on which shows Ministers will attend.

Energy: Conservation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of energy supply companies to energy efficiency. [147651]

Mr. Woolas: Energy suppliers play a key role in delivering energy efficiency to household consumers through the Government's Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) scheme, which requires them to meet targets for promoting improvements in household energy efficiency. Of the 4.6 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) savings identified in the 2006 Climate Change Programme for the household sector, suppliers will be responsible for 1.9 MtC.

The first phase of the EEC ran from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2005, delivering 0.3 MtC annually by 2010. The second phase of the EEC runs from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008 and is expected to save 0.5 MtC annually by 2010. We are currently consulting on the third phase, now known as the Carbon Emissions Reductions Target (CERT), which is expected to deliver a further 1.1 MtC annually by 2010.

The 2007 Energy White Paper reaffirms the Government's commitment to maintain some form of obligation on household energy suppliers until at least 2020, with an ambition level at least equal to that under the forthcoming CERT. This will save around 3-4 MtC over the decade from 2011.

Pesticides: Health Hazards

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likelihood of the acute reference dose for pesticides being exceeded by an individual consumer. [146792]

Mr. Woolas: The Pesticide Residues Committee conducts annual programmes to monitor pesticide residues in food and publishes consumer risk assessments for residues which are found to exceed the acute reference dose. They are available at http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/prc_home.asp

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to advise consumers of the importance of washing or peeling fruit to reduce herbicide and pesticide ingestion; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the health risks of pesticide ingestion; and if he will make a statement. [146793]

Mr. Woolas: The Advisory Committee on Pesticides advises Ministers on matters relating to pesticides. The Committee has concluded that washing or peeling fruit is not required as a protection against pesticide residues. When deciding whether pesticides should be approved for use in the UK, the Committee makes no assumption that fruit will be washed or peeled. Moreover, monitoring of fruit and vegetables (both UK-produced and imported) indicates that the pesticide residues which occur in these foods are highly unlikely to pose a risk to human health.

Pesticides: Residues

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the maximum residue level for commonly used pesticides was last reviewed. [146571]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticide active substances are set on a wide range of crops under a European Community programme. The most recent changes were implemented into national law by the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. Separate but similar legislation was implemented in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of individual fruits having levels high enough to exceed the acute reference dose when determining the safe maximum residue levels for pesticides. [146572]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The variability of residues in individual pieces of fruit differs between commodities and pesticides. It is taken into account when setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) for each pesticide active substance either by using data specific to that active substance in each commodity or, where no specific data are available, by using internationally agreed default values.

MRLs may be amended in light of new or revised acute reference doses, to ensure that expected consumer intakes of residues remain within toxicologically acceptable levels.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the advice and guidance given by his Department to regional development agencies on axes 1 and 3 of the Rural Development Programme. [147348]

Jonathan Shaw: Regional plans for the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 have been developed by the regional development agencies (RDAs), Natural England and the Forestry Commission, in consultation with stakeholders and partners. In devising their plans, regions were asked to reflect the national priorities for the programme, on which we consulted early last year.

The regional plans informed the content of the draft programme document which has been submitted to the EU Commission for approval. This document sets out priorities for action, details of which rural development regulation measures we plan to use, as well as how we plan to use them. It therefore sets out the broad framework of guidance within which RDAs will have devolved responsibility to deliver axes 1 and 3 in line with the regional plans. The draft programme document is available on our website.

The programme document might, in due course, have to be supplemented by further guidance to aid consistent interpretation of the EU rules.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he plans to make to the United States on Guantanamo Bay. [147540]

Dr. Howells: The Government have long held that the circumstances in which detainees are held indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay are unacceptable and that Guantanamo Bay should be closed. The US Government are fully aware of our position. We will continue to discuss detainee-related issues with the US Government and will raise humanitarian and human rights concerns about detentions at Guantanamo Bay where necessary.

Burma: Armed Forces

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the use that the Army and Air Force in Burma will make of military material and training recently provided by India; [147686]

(2) what plans he has to make representations to the government of India on its proposed training of Burma Army personnel in India. [147687]

Meg Munn: We have made no such detailed assessment, but we raise Burma with the Indian authorities as part of our regular dialogue with the Indians on regional security and they are aware of our concern. We ask the Indian authorities to use their influence with the Government of Burma to encourage them to respect human rights and to restore democratic rule. We are concerned that the Government of Burma continues to spend scarce resources on weaponry for its 400,000-strong army, while expenditure on health and education is at minimal levels.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147599]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid Common Purpose £3,750 in financial year 2003-04 to enable a senior official to participate in a Common Purpose Matrix Leadership programme.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146336]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Department's annual reports, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. The FCO spent in excess of £10 million over the seven financial years from April 2000 to March 2007 with each of the following consultancy companies:

Fujitsu Consulting
Logica
Parity Resources
PA Consulting
Hewlett Packard
3M UK
Cap Gemini Ernst and Young

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in her Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146096]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are approximately 95 officials working on EU matters in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Europe Directorate in London. In addition, a number of officials, including from other Government Departments, work on EU matters in the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the EU and elsewhere in the overseas network. Providing a detailed breakdown as requested by the hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost. The FCO also has one official seconded to the European Commission and one in the Council Secretariat.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146987]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid the following bonuses to staff in 2006 and 2005:

(Pay Round)	Number of recipients	Annual performance related bonus awards	Devolved bonus scheme	Total bonus payments
2006	6,076	6,204,363	348,925	6,553,288
2005	5,097	5,589,900	399,200	5,989,100

The processes for determining annual pay and bonus awards for FCO staff follow a timetable which reaches a conclusion in late July. We will not therefore be in a position to supply figures for annual bonuses paid during the 2007 pay round until August. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this information is available and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

The FCO uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable, performance-related bonuses to encourage high performance. Since 2002, we have paid annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest bonus for staff in these grades will be £1,850 in 2007. Managers may also nominate staff in the delegated grades to receive small awards, devolved bonuses, for particular exceptional achievements in year.

Bonus arrangements for staff in the senior management structure (SMS) have followed a framework set for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office since 2004. We use SMS bonuses to reward excellent performance during the year. They are based on a judgment by pay committees of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. In accordance with the Cabinet Office guidelines, Departments may spend a sum equivalent to 7.6 per cent. of their SMS pay budget on non-consolidated bonuses for SMS staff in 2007.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147330]

Mr. Jim Murphy: 563 members of staff (9 per cent.) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension entitlements they have accumulated to date together with a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service up to the scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension. We also provide information about these options to new recruits and to other staff who seek advice.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146919]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Under the Department's performance improvement procedures, unacceptable performance has to be addressed as soon as it occurs rather than waiting for the appraisal cycle to be completed. In the period 2006-07, 22 staff were subject to these procedures. Annual report markings, which only record cases of poor performance current at the end of the appraisal year, for the period 2006-07 are not yet available.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147326]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has 2,620 staff based in our two Whitehall buildings and 1,200 staff at Hanslope Park, Buckinghamshire. The majority of our London staff commute by public transport, whereas the majority of those at Hanslope Park come by private car, because public transport is not available. The travel plan we are introducing for Hanslope Park encourages car sharing. About 200 staff cycle to the London buildings and 20 to Hanslope Park.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147056]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The numbers of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff taking two, three, four and five or more periods of recorded sick absence of less than five days during the 12 months to 31 May 2007 are set out in the following table.

	2 periods	*3 periods*	*4 periods*	*5+ periods*
Number of staff	315	132	76	108

We have recently revised our sickness absence policy in order to tighten the procedures for handling short-term sickness absences. Subject to agreement from our trades unions, we plan to implement the new policy from September.

Ethiopia: Treason

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made by the Government on the progress of the treason trials in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [148182]

Meg Munn: We continue to make representations to the Government of Ethiopia to ensure that the trial of opposition political leaders, civil society representatives and journalists is swift, transparent and fair, and that their individual human rights are respected.

Our Ambassador in Addis Ababa has raised this with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on several occasions, most recently on 28 June.

On 11 June, judges in the trial ruled that those individuals who chose not to defend themselves were all guilty of one or more charges brought against them by the prosecution. Sentencing is scheduled for 9 July. Cases of those who have chosen to defend themselves started on 18 June.

We continue to monitor the ongoing trial and urge the government and all political parties in Ethiopia to commit themselves to resolving their differences through dialogue.

European Constitution Treaty

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ministers took part in discussions of the Amending Treaty agreed at the June European Council in the two months prior to the agreement. [146188]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friends the former Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair), the former Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) and the former Minister for Europe now the Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) had discussions with EU partners on the subject of EU institutional reform in the period leading up to the June European Council.

Within Government, the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) met on 5 June to discuss the June European Council.

Group of Eight: Africa

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions Ministers in his Department held with African leaders during the recent G8 meeting in Germany. [147552]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers did not attend the G8 summit in Heiligendamm on 6-8 June. In an outreach session involving G8 members and African countries, my right hon. Friend the former Prime Minister (Mr Tony Blair) held discussions with African Heads of State from Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana and also the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union. The leaders discussed a number of issues with specific reference to Africa, including peace and security, aid for trade, debt relief, good governance, investment, support for the healthcare sector and the effects of climate change in Africa. A summary of their discussions can be found in Chapter II of the Chair's Summary at:

http://www.g-8.de/Content/EN/Artikel/__g8-summit/2007-06-07-summit-documents.html.

Iraq: Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider further the merits of releasing into the public domain the draft of the September 2002 dossier on Iraq written by John Williams. [147785]

Dr. Howells: This issue is the subject of an ongoing appeal to the Information Tribunal following a recent decision by the Information Commissioner. However, as I recently made clear in the House on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 296WH, the Government believe it is vital to provide "thinking space" for officials and others involved in drafting policy documents. They should not feel constrained in presenting their ideas because they fear these will be made public. This principle is specifically recognised in the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Jamaica: Entry Clearances

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Ms Vanessa Ann Marie Brown, date of birth 17 May 1979, of Jamaica to receive student entry clearance arising from her successful appeal in February (Appeal No. OA/36531/2006); what the reasons are for the delay; and what procedure is used to inform posts abroad when an appeal has been upheld. [147726]

Dr. Howells: To conform with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the details of any ongoing visa application are always treated as confidential to the applicant and his/her authorised representatives.

A backlog of appeals cases at our High Commission in Kingston was identified in January; a programme was immediately put into place to reduce the backlog, with assistance from other visa posts. Significant progress has been made, however there may still be a delay between receipt of the appeal determination and the issue of the visa.

When an appeal is allowed, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) will forward the Tribunal's determination to the applicant, the applicant's representative and the Respondent (the Home Office). The AIT aims to do this within 12 working days of the hearing.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on governmental relations with Hamas if its policy towards Israel does not change; and if he will make a statement. [148189]

Dr. Howells: We have repeatedly made clear that we are ready to engage with Hamas if they follow the Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) principles: renunciation of violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap. Hamas has a role to play in the peace process. As I told the House on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 812

"we have never denied that Hamas should play a part, but it must be a constructive part. I would very much like it to play that role, which I believe the Palestinian people elected it to play. However, we cannot treat Hamas in the same way as other players in the region if it supports suicide bombers and if it plays a game of violence, and does not take a peaceful approach to the problem. There is no question but that Hamas was the democratic expression of the majority of the Palestinian people in the elections-that is not disputed—we cannot deal with a Government with elected representatives who advocate terrorism as a way of achieving some kind of political settlement in such a sensitive area".

Poland

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Poland. [147673]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's overseas engagements are kept under constant review. It is not our practice to announce such visits until they are firm. Because of the unpredictable nature of world events, final decisions on overseas visits are often not possible until very shortly before the day of travel.

Robert Tweyambe

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the *(a)* health and *(b)* ability to access medical treatment of the detained Uganda Forum for Democratic Change supporter Robert Tweyambe; and if he will make a statement. [147538]

Meg Munn: We have not received any specific reports on the health of Mr Robert Tweyambe, or his ability to access medical treatment.

However, we continue to raise our concerns about the detention of the Peoples' Redemption Army suspects with the Government of Uganda. Most recently our High Commissioner in Kampala raised this with President Museveni on 10 May.

We understand that Mr Tweyambe is due to appear before Mbarara High Court on 9 July to hear the outcome of his bail application on murder charges. We will continue to make further representations to the Government of Uganda calling for court proceedings to be expedited in a fair and just manner.

Uganda: Oppression

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the deaths in Makindye military barracks of three Forum for Democratic Change members, Denis Nabilema, Moses Dramani and David Oboma; and if he will make a statement. [147539]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports in Uganda, including by the media, and the claims by the leader of the Forum for Democratic Change, Dr Kizza Besigye, that three of his party's supporters died in detention; and the comment by the Ugandan People's Defence Force spokesman confirming that David Oboma died recently at Mbuya Military hospital. However, we have not yet received information to confirm this. We will seek further clarification from the Government of Uganda and I shall write to the hon. Member once we have received further information. I will also place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Bishop Auckland Hospital

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the accident and emergency unit at Bishop Auckland General Hospital. [147020]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure that there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency care services to meet the needs of local people. In planning local provision of urgent and emergency care services, health communities are expected to observe the general principle that all urgent and emergency care should be delivered as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety. There is a requirement for trusts to involve and consult the public on the planning for provision of health services.

Bishop Auckland has a consultant led accident and emergency department and there are currently no plans to change this provision.

Colorectal Cancer

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were diagnosed with cancer of the bowel in each year since 2001, broken down by acute trust; and if he will make a statement. [147438]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The information requested by acute trust is not held centrally. Figures of the number of newly diagnosed cases of colorectal cancer for England, broken down by Government Office of the Region, are published in 'Cancer Registration Statistics Series MB1', which can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=l&Rank=224.

Additionally, the number of colorectal cancer cases broken down by strategic health authority for the years 1993 to 2003 provided by the Office for National Statistics are available on the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development website at:

www.nchod.nhs.uk/.

Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* patient and public interest groups and *(b)* professional healthcare regulators have met (i) Ministers and (ii) officials from his Department to discuss the White Paper "Trust, Assurance and Safety"; and if he will publish written representations made. [146197]

Mr. Bradshaw: There has been extensive consultation leading up to the publication of the White Paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety'. The response to the consultation was published in February.

Further involvement in the implementation of the White Paper will be through the working groups which we announced at the stakeholder conference for the professional regulation reform implementation on 5 June. The conference was attended by over 200 stakeholders and my noble Friend the Minister of State for Health (Lord Hunt) and officials from the Department were able to discuss aspects of the White Paper with most of them during the day. We will be publishing the terms of reference and membership of the working groups shortly.

Health Services: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to allocate to the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence *(a)* for communication purposes and *(b)* to promote public engagement in their four country business plan, with particular reference to his Department's priority work themes arising from the White Paper Trust, Assurance and Safety. [146202]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health and the Council of Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) have not made any final decisions on the allocation to CHRE, in relation to the additional work set out in the White Paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety'. CHRE's Business Plan will be agreed soon.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budgetary allocation is for expenditure by the Government on healthcare from private sector providers in 2007-08. [146191]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service spend on private healthcare providers will be determined by the choices made by patients and those who commission services locally on their behalf.

As financial plans for 2007-08 are still subject to final validation and sign-off, it is not yet possible to provide a robust estimate for this category of expenditure in 2007-08.

Patient Choice Schemes

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the rules governing the choose and book system allow for the names of individual clinicians within a particular service and their indicative waiting times to be passed on to GPs and their patients. [146963]

Mr. Bradshaw: Yes.

United Health Group

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2199W, on United Health Group, in which salary band Mr Channing Wheeler's salary falls; whether his employment contract allows for performance bonuses; and what period the contract covers. [147830]

Dawn Primarolo: The post of director general for the commercial directorate falls within Senior Civil Service (SCS) payband 3, and performance bonuses will be payable in line with the Department's SCS pay strategy. The contract is a fixed term for three years.

Written Questions

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 1 May to the Minister of State about Nexavar. [146709]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 29 June 2007]*: A reply was sent on 25 June 2007.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders imposed at magistrates' courts in each of the last three years were overturned on appeal. [146972]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not available yet but will be published shortly, once their quality has been assured.

Children: Abuse

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with those hosting social networking sites on adopting mechanisms to prevent child abuse; [147381]

(2) what discussions she has had with those hosting social networking sites on child protection issues. [147383]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are aware of the wider concerns that social networking websites have raised. Although they enable young people to share their interests with other young people, clearly there is a potential for misuse.

Some of the major social networking services have been invited to join the Home Secretary's taskforce for child protection on the internet. In addition, a sub-group of the taskforce, which includes representatives from social network providers, law enforcement and children's charities, has been set up to look at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites and develop good practice guidelines.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely impact of serious crime prevention orders proposed in the Serious Crime Bill, if enacted, on the posting of child abuse images on social networking sites. [147384]

Mr. Coaker: We believe that serious crime prevention orders will make a significant impact in the fight against all types of serious crime. They will allow law enforcement to apply for orders which will put in place reasonable and proportionate conditions upon those who have been involved in serious crime, in order to prevent any future involvement.

We have ensured that contained within the list of serious crimes set out in schedule 1 is, among other similar offences, the offence under section 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography). This will mean that it will be open to the applicant authorities to seek an order to prevent such criminal activity where an order would be effective and appropriate. This will not, of course, alter in any way our commitment to investigate and prosecute those who have already been involved in this criminal activity. These orders will be a means of preventing future harm before it takes place.

Homicide: Religion

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of so-called honour killings in each of the last 10 years, broken down by nationality. [147445]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for so-called honour killings there were in each of the last 10 years. [147446]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy her Department has in place to tackle so-called honour killings; and how long it has been in existence. [147447]

Mr. Coaker: The National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence, which was issued in 2005, includes workstreams to tackle honour based violence, including homicide. In addition, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) national working group on honour based violence will shortly publish for consultation its proposals for a national action plan to respond to honour based violence.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Females

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans the Government have to increase the number of disadvantaged young women entering apprenticeships. [146389]

Mr. Lammy: We want to expand the apprenticeships programme so that in 2013 any suitably qualified young person will be entitled to an apprenticeship place. We are therefore working with partners including the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), sector bodies and employers to address the needs of learners who are typically under-represented in apprenticeships, either generally or in particular occupational sectors and whether by gender, ethnicity or disability. We aim to attract apprentices from a wide range of backgrounds through targeted marketing activity, by creating more flexible apprenticeship opportunities and by improving careers advice and guidance, including by offering opportunities for non-stereotypical "tasters" from the age of 14.

Foundation Degrees: Public Sector

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of those qualifying with foundation degrees were employed by local authorities in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by local authority area; [146409]

(2) how many and what percentage of students who completed foundation degrees went on to employment in *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* the police or armed forces and *(d)* the public sector in the last five years for which figures are available. [146410]

Bill Rammell: The available information on employment of graduates is taken from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey which is carried out annually by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The DLHE survey records the activity of the student six months after qualifying.

The latest available figures are given in the table and show the full list of occupations for those students who obtained employment. The destinations data do not allow identification of qualifiers employed in individual local authorities. Figures for 2005-06 will be available in mid-July.

First destinations of foundation degree qualifiers at English Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

	Number			*Percentage*		
Destination 6 months after qualifying	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Number of known destination	760	1,850	3,955	–	–	–
Of which in employment[1]	420	1,165	2,465	55	63	62
Broken down by Standard Industrial Classification:						
Agriculture and Forestry	5	25	25	1	1	1
Fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mining and Quarrying	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	40	100	125	5	5	3
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0	5	10	0	0	0
Construction	5	10	20	1	1	1
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Goods	80	135	215	10	7	5
Hotels and Restaurants	10	55	75	2	3	2
Transport, Storage and Communication	20	40	55	2	2	1
Financial Activities	5	25	20	1	1	1
Property Development, Renting, Business and Research Activity	25	75	140	4	4	3
Public Administration and Defence	20	50	375	3	3	9
Of which:						
Police officers (all ranks)	0	0		0	0	2
Armed forces (Officers, NCOs and other ranks)	0	0	15	0	0	0

First destinations of foundation degree qualifiers at English Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

	Number			Percentage		
Destination 6 months after qualifying	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Education[2]	5	5	115	1	0	3
Local Government[3]	5	5	20	0	0	0
Others	15	35	155	2	2	4
Education	130	400	940	17	22	24
Health and social work	20	135	315	2	7	8
Other community, social and personal service activities	55	110	145	7	6	4
Private households with employed persons	0	5	10	0	0	0
International Organisations and Bodies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not known/Not applicable	0	5	0	0	0	0
Response rate (percentage)	80	74	81	?	?	?

[1] includes those in employment and further study
[2] includes education officers, education assistants and support workers, primary, nursery and secondary teachers, and those employed in special educational needs, adult and vocational education
[3] includes area, divisional, clerical, associate professional and senior officials.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (Higher Education Statistics Agency)

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils from *(a)* low-participation neighbourhoods and *(b)* socioeconomic classes 4-7 (i) applied and (ii) were accepted to (A) Oxbridge, (B) Russell Group and (C) other universities for (1) physics, (2) chemistry, (3) biochemistry, (4) psychology, (5) sports science, (6) biological sciences excluding biochemistry and (7) all other science subjects in each of the last five years to which figures are available. [146408]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Figures for Oxford and Cambridge Universities are not available because, for confidentiality reasons, UCAS do not release combinations of variables through which the data of individual institutions, or small groups of institutions, might be identifiable, beyond those already in the public domain.

UCAS do not hold information on students from low-participation neighbourhoods.

Applications[1] from UK domiciled pupils known to be in socio-economic classes 4-7 to Russell Group and Non-Russell Group[2] Institutions in the UK by subject of study: year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Subject of study	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Physics					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,753	1,732	1,535	1,661	1,670
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,567	1,558	1,318	1,513	1,336
Total	3,320	3,290	2,853	3,174	3,006
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	52.8	52.6	53.8	52.3	55.6
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	47.2	47.4	46.2	47.7	44.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,501	1,584	1,573	1,866	1,926
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,425	2,309	2,277	2,143	2,130
Total	3,926	3,893	3,850	4,009	4,056
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	38.2	40.7	40.9	46.5	47.5
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	61.8	59.3	59.1	53.5	52.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,380	1,279	1,169	1,230	1,092
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,255	1,142	1,375	1,331	1,210
Total	2,635	2,421	2,544	2,561	2,302
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	52.4	52.8	46.0	48.0	47.4
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	47.6	47.2	54.0	52.0	52.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Applications[1] from UK domiciled pupils known to be in socio-economic classes 4-7 to Russell Group and Non-Russell Group[2] Institutions in the UK by subject of study: year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Subject of study	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Psychology					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	4,073	4,387	4,204	4,151	3,927
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	13,229	14,825	13,928	15,587	14,907
Total	77,302	19,272	18,132	19,738	78,834
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	23.5	22.8	23.2	21.0	20.9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	76.5	77.2	76.8	79.0	79.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sports Science					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	283	479	418	465	387
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	10,178	11,351	11,415	12,519	12,790
Total	10,461	11,830	11,831	12,984	13,177
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	2.7	4.0	3.5	3.6	2.9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	97.3	96.0	96.5	96.4	97.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biological Sciences Excluding Biochemistry					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	3,735	3,511	3,252	3,280	2,854
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	6,723	6,387	5,925	5,808	5,327
Total	10,458	9,898	9,177	9,088	8,181
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	35.7	35.5	35.4	36.1	34.9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	64.3	64.5	64.6	63.9	65.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All Other Science Subjects					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	31,993	32,935	34,631	37,847	37,830
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	99,763	98,512	96,196	101,335	97,439
Total	131,756	131,447	130,827	139,182	135,269
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	24.3	25.1	26.5	27.2	28.0
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	75.7	74.9	73.5	72.8	72.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Applicants to UCAS can submit up to six applications, in this table students have been counted once for each application they submit.
[2] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[3] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Acceptances from UK domiciled pupils known to be in socio-economic classes 4-7 to Russell Group and Non-Russell Group[1] Institutions in the UK by subject of study: year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Subject of study	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Physics					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	321	289	287	301	280
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	265	251	204	235	234
Total	586	540	491	536	514
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	54.8	53.5	58.5	56.2	54.5
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	45.2	46.5	41.5	43.8	45.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	301	299	315	344	338
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	435	405	358	399	383
Total	736	704	673	743	721
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	40.9	42.5	46.8	46.3	46.9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	59.1	57.5	53.2	53.7	53.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	228	199	183	197	191
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	171	190	213	217	218
Total	399	389	396	414	409
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	57.1	51.2	46.2	47.6	46.7
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	42.9	48.8	53.8	52.4	53.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Acceptances from UK domiciled pupils known to be in socio-economic classes 4-7 to Russell Group and Non-Russell Group[1] Institutions in the UK by subject of study: year of entry 2002-06

Subject of study	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Psychology					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	431	385	379	405	384
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,235	2,523	2,446	2,725	2,557
Total	2,666	2,908	2,825	3,130	2,941
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	16.2	13.2	13.4	12.9	13.1
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	83.8	86.8	86.6	87.1	86.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sports Science					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	38	42	40	46	30
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,910	2,126	2,141	2,471	2,420
Total	7,948	2,168	2,181	2,517	2,450
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.2
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	98.0	98.1	98.2	98.2	98.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biological Sciences Excluding Biochemistry					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	632	601	552	542	469
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,209	1,192	1,114	1,130	964
Total	1,841	1,793	1,666	1,672	1,433
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	34.3	33.5	33.1	32.4	32.7
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	65.7	66.5	66.9	67.6	67.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All Other Science Subjects					
Number					
at Russell Group Institutions	4,770	4,870	4,861	5,060	4,833
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	19,651	19,176	18,595	19,487	17,998
Total	24,421	24,046	23,456	24,547	22,831
Percentage					
at Russell Group Institutions	19.5	20.3	20.7	20.6	21.2
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	80.5	79.7	79.3	79.4	78.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[2] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys were accepted to study (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) psychology and (v) sports science at (A) Oxbridge, (B) a Russell Group university and (C) other universities from (1) comprehensive schools, (2) further or higher education institutions, (3) grammar schools, (4) independent schools, (5) sixth form centres, (6) sixth form colleges and (7) other institutions in each of the last five years; [146416]

(2) how many *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys applied to study (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) psychology and (v) sports science at (A) Oxbridge, (B) a Russell Group university and (C) other universities from (1) comprehensive schools, (2) further or higher education institutions, (3) grammar schools, (4) independent schools, (5) sixth form centres, (6) sixth form colleges and (7) other institutions in each of the last five years. [146417]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Figures for Oxbridge are not available because, for confidentiality reasons, UCAS do not release combinations of variables through which the data of individual institutions, or small groups of institutions, might be identifiable, beyond those already in the public domain.

Acceptances from male UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1], Institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of previous institution[2], year of entry 2002-06

Type of previous institution	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Comprehensive schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	500	509	473	492	531
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	420	381	348	358	421
Total	920	890	821	850	952

Acceptances from male UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1], Institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of previous institution[2], year of entry 2002-06

Type of previous institution	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	291	281	305	389	378
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	330	310	358	377	381
Total	621	591	663	766	759
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	161	155	141	151	123
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	104	114	111	122	111
Total	265	269	252	273	234
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	99	102	100	113	110
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	451	484	470	549	575
Total	550	586	570	662	685
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	38	41	51	69	43
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	1,276	1,350	1,387	1,644	1,641
Total	1,314	1,391	1,438	1,713	1,684
Further or Higher Education Institutions					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	111	78	94	93	96
Non-Russell Group Institutions [1]	101	106	84	91	91
Total	212	184	178	184	787
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	65	57	74	80	83
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	118	100	107	111	125
Total	183	157	181	191	208
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	29	31	20	40	37
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	42	59	46	66	82
Total	71	90	66	706	119
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	51	36	31	51	48
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	324	378	391	382	442
Total	375	414	422	433	490
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	12	10	7	7	16
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	1,178	1,305	1,307	1,470	1,814
Total	1,190	1,315	1,314	1,477	1,830
Grammar Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	135	135	118	115	141
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	35	45	47	59	39
Total	170	780	165	174	180
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	64	68	52	93	95
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	28	36	33	46	51
Total	92	104	85	139	146
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	61	44	49	49	35
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	17	13	20	23	19
Total	78	57	69	72	54
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	54	45	54	60	45
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	89	114	82	120	101
Total	143	159	736	180	146
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	8	2	16	6	1
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	100	136	140	153	155
Total	108	138	156	759	762
Independent Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	176	186	195	171	183
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	62	93	73	78	61
Total	238	279	268	249	244
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	180	151	152	179	178

Acceptances from male UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1], Institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of previous institution[2], year of entry 2002-06

Type of previous institution	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	49	64	80	63	87
Total	229	215	232	242	265
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	110	95	100	112	95
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	23	36	37	31	34
Total	133	131	137	743	729
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	99	93	112	104	74
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	154	147	158	136	117
Total	253	240	270	240	797
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	17	18	15	25	17
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	216	229	231	239	254
Total	233	247	246	264	277
Sixth Form Centres					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	18	14	11	11	13
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	6	11	8	9	4
Total	24	25	19	20	77
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	11	8	6	11	10
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	4	7	5	7	4
Total	15	15	11	18	74
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	7	4	8	8	2
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	9	3	6	6	6
Total	16	7	14	14	8
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	5	3	5	1	1
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	16	20	25	16	12
Total	21	23	30	17	73
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	0	0	0	0	1

Acceptances from male UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1], Institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of previous institution[2], year of entry 2002-06

Type of previous institution	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	31	37	30	28	43
Total	31	37	30	28	44
Sixth Form Colleges					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	147	154	135	134	143
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	84	86	77	101	102
Total	231	240	212	235	245
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	106	94	118	150	144
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	99	95	100	124	130
Total	205	189	218	274	274
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	43	44	48	77	48
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	24	60	52	56	60
Total	67	104	100	733	708
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	50	48	53	41	43
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	182	227	213	295	254
Total	232	275	266	336	297
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	11	11	13	13	9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	504	542	531	634	649
Total	515	553	544	647	658
Other Institutions					
Physics at Russell Group Institutions	131	130	122	144	135
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	69	68	74	75	72
Total	200	198	796	279	207
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	80	87	84	95	92
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	50	79	68	71	86
Total	130	166	752	766	778
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
at Russell Group Institutions	40	50	42	61	43

Acceptances from male UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1]. Institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of previous institution[2], year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Type of previous institution	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	21	22	35	38	34
Total	61	72	77	99	77
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	23	27	20	26	36
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	96	120	122	141	147
Total	119	747	742	767	783
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	5	14	12	11	9
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	270	283	309	374	344
Total	275	297	327	385	353

[1] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[2] Excludes a small amount of students with an unknown previous institution.
[3] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Intellectual Property: India

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on the UK/India intellectual property rights programme since its signing in 2004. [147639]

Ian Pearson: The Joint Statement of Intent was signed in June 2006. Under the JETCO (Joint Economic Trade Committee) agreement between India and the UK, we are currently developing a bilateral action plan with the Indian IPR authorities in order to put in place a technical assistance programme for Indian government officials dealing with IP.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to discourage farmers in Afghanistan from growing opium for use in illegal drugs. [147303]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government support the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) whose goal is to secure a sustainable decrease in cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs, with a view to complete and sustainable elimination. The NDCS sets out four national priorities: disrupting the drugs trade by targeting traffickers and their backers; reducing the demand for illicit drugs and treatment of problem drug users; developing state institutions at the central and provincial level vital to the delivery of the overall counter-narcotics strategy; and strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods that free farmers and other rural workers from dependence on poppy cultivation.

DFID has lead responsibility within HMG for delivering the fourth NDCS priority, providing £77 million from 2005-07 to support the development of legal rural livelihoods. The majority of these resources have been channelled through the Government of Afghanistan's own National Priority Programmes. This helps to ensure that other measures designed to discourage poppy growing are effective.

There is no one single crop which will replace poppy, and therefore DFID has provided £3 million to support research into a range of alternatives including high value crops such as mint and saffron. Traditional alternatives include crops such as wheat and onions.

But alternatives to poppy come not only in the form of different crops. They can often be non-farm activities such as clothes-making and shopkeeping. The Government of Afghanistan's Microfinance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA) have provided over £133 million worth of small loans to 364,786 Afghan families to help them invest in their own licit businesses. MISFA operates in 23 provinces, including Helmand. DFID has provided £15 million to MISFA since March 2004. Nearly 75 per cent. of those receiving loans are women.

DFID also provided £18 million in 2005-06 to the Government of Afghanistan's National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), which has so far built or repaired over 9,000 km of roads—essential for rural farmers to access markets. So far the programme has generated over 13 million days of labour for Afghans. NRAP operates in all 34 provinces.

DFID has also provided £42.6 million in total for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and is providing £10.6 million to roll out NSP in Helmand province (2006-09). NSP is helping elected Community Development Councils (CDCs), representing over 17,000 communities across Afghanistan, identify development priorities in their areas and then receive grants to undertake the work. This broader social development can help instil essential trust in the Government of Afghanistan among poppy farmers. NSP has funded over 28,000 projects in agriculture, education, health, irrigation, power supply, transport, and water supply. NSP currently operates in all 34 provinces.

DFID is making a contribution of £22.7 million over three years (as part of an overall UK Government contribution of £30 million) to the Government of Afghanistan's Counter Narcotics Trust Fund. The fund is designed to bring funding for counter narcotics into the national budget, and give Afghans greater responsibility for managing the drugs problem.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147605]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has provided the following funding to Common Purpose in each of the last 5 years.

	£
2002	35,792
2003	117,644
2004	27,897
2005	0
2006	0

This funding was provided through our Civil Society Challenge Fund in support of a three-year project in South Africa which ended in 2004.

This project provided training programmes designed to build the capacity of leaders from all sectors to undertake civic leadership and management roles more effectively.

An independent evaluation conducted in February 2005 found that the project met all its objectives.

Developing Countries

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria are used to determine whether a country is a heavily indebted poor country. [146684]

Mr. Thomas: To be eligible for debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, as defined by the international system, a country must:

have unsustainable debts (debt-to-export levels above 150 per cent. or debt-to-government revenues above 250 per cent.) after the application of traditional debt relief measures, such as those offered by the Paris Club group of government creditors;

only be eligible for assistance on highly concessional terms from the International Development Association (IDA) at the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility;

establish a track record of reform and implement a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, using the savings from debt relief to reduce poverty;

and have cleared any outstanding arrears to the International Financial Institutions.

Each heavily indebted poor country has to decide whether or not to seek debt cancellation under the HIPC initiative. Those that complete the HIPC process are granted complete cancellation of their debts to the IMF, IDA and African Development Fund under HIPC and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contact his Department has had with Applied Scholastics since 1997. [147456]

Mr. Thomas: DFID staff have not had any direct contact with Applied Scholastics in the course of our support to education in developing countries since 1997.

Gambia: Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much money from the public purse has been provided to the Gambian Government for education programmes *(a)* by the Government directly and *(b)* through other institutions in each year since 1997. [146939]

Mr. Thomas: DFID did not provide any aid directly to the Gambian Government for education over the period 1997-98 to 2006-07. Most aid for the education sector in Gambia is delivered in the form of technical co-operation.

UK funding to multilateral institutions cannot be directly attributed to any country or sector.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the Gambian education system's adoption of the Applied Scholastics programme. [147365]

Mr. Thomas: We have not undertaken such an assessment in the absence of a Gambian Government request for DFID to consider. We understand that the current Department of Education is much less enthusiastic about developing this approach throughout the Gambia than its predecessors.

Namibia: EU Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the European Commission over EU aid to Namibia. [146999]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has made no representations to the European Commission regarding EU aid to Namibia.

Nepal

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the most recent visit took place by a Minister in his Department to Nepal; and what the outcomes were of the visit. [147134]

Mr. Malik: My hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas) Under-Secretary of State for International Development visited Nepal from 2 to 4 April 2007, a day after the formation of the eight-party interim government in Nepal. During the visit he met politicians from all parties, including the Maoists, representatives from excluded groups and visited DFID-funded programmes. He also had discussions with the UN Mission in Nepal.

The visit focused on the need for credible, free and fair elections, the importance of a well targeted peace dividend and improved government basic service delivery in the post conflict environment and the need for an inclusive political process. My hon. Friend also announced significant increases in UK development support including £13 million for the government-managed Peace Trust Fund and £23.5 million in multilateral debt relief for the period up to 2015.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was provided to Nepal in each of the last five years, broken down by sector; and if he will make a statement. [147135]

Mr. Malik: The total DFID bilateral expenditure to Nepal in each of the last five financial years, broken down by sector, is given in table 1 as follows:

Table 1: total DFID bilateral aid to Nepal by broad sector

£000

Broad sector	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]
Economic	5,828	8,406	7,228	5,283	8,939
Education	358	490	2,637	6,154	4,173
Health	5,751	5,023	5,734	8,374	9,002
Governance	3,305	2,704	3,256	2,650	2,416
Social	2,045	4,044	4,467	4,263	5,444
Humanitarian	2,362	4,495	4,218	1,133	2,161
Livelihoods	5,961	6,397	7,533	6,280	5,972
Environment	411	113	0	0	0
Unallocated[2]	1,140	376	12	52	4,725
Total	27,162	32,047	35,085	34,188	42,833

[1] Provisional data.

[2] Unallocated to sector and comprises expenditure on administration costs in-country and other projects not easily classified to an aid sector.

UK funding to multilateral institutions cannot be directly attributed to any country or broken down by sector. However, table 2 contains estimates of the UK's imputed shares of multilateral aid to Nepal, based on the UK's total funding to multilateral institutions and the percentage share of aid from the multilateral pool that went to Nepal. These estimates are only available on a calendar year basis.

Table 2: imputed UK share of multilateral aid to Nepal, 2001-05

£000

	Imputed multilateral aid
2001	7,461
2002	2,935
2003	14,639
2004	4,303
2005	3,592

Notes:

1. Data for 2006 are not yet available.

2. The list of multilateral organisations used in the production of these data is not exhaustive; the multilateral analysed are those that provide the Development Assistance Committee with detailed information about their distribution of funds to Nepal and to whom the UK provided funds over the period.

Nepal: International Assistance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what national programmes his Department funds in health and education which reach Jiling, Nuwakot in Nepal. [147271]

Mr. Malik: DFID is helping to fund the Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP). Under this programme the communities of Jiling village have received preventive health service and basic curative care from an Auxiliary Health Worker and a Maternal and Child Health Worker delivered through a sub health post. Mothers in Jiling will have benefited from a maternal grants scheme which provides financial incentives for pregnant women to use skilled birth attendants.

Under the DFID funded Education for All (EFA) programme, 11 schools are receiving funding support in the Nuwakot district. Of the 11 schools, one is a higher secondary school, three are lower secondary schools and seven are primary schools.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to people living in Jiling village in Nuwakot district in Nepal. [147272]

Mr. Malik: DFID funded support to infrastructure, health services and education have brought benefits to Jiling village in Nuwakot district.

DFID is funding the work of Helvetas, a Swiss NGO working in Nepal. Under this programme, two short span trail bridges have been constructed which have improved access to health and education services as well as to vegetable and agricultural markets based at the District Headquarters. Approximately 850 households have benefited from this construction programme

DFID is helping to fund the Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP). Under this programme the communities of Jiling village have received preventive health service and basic curative care from an Auxiliary Health Worker and a Maternal and Child Health Worker delivered through a sub health post. Mothers in Jiling will have benefited from a maternal grants scheme which provides financial incentives for pregnant women to use skilled birth attendants. DFID have provided finance for this scheme through support for a National Safer Motherhood programme.

Similarly, under the DFID funded Education for All (EFA) programme, eleven schools are receiving funding support in the Nuwakot district. Of the eleven schools, one is a higher secondary school, three are lower secondary schools and seven are primary schools.

Pakistan: Storms

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the situation caused by the cyclone in the Balochistan province of Pakistan; and what assistance his Department is making available to the people affected. [147723]

Mr. Malik: DFID has been closely watching the developing humanitarian situation in south and west Pakistan as a result of the recent cyclone and heavy monsoon rains. These have had a significant impact on parts of Sindh, Balochistan, North West Frontier Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

A grant of up to £1 million has been approved for immediate support. A team of two DFID humanitarian specialists has now been deployed into Pakistan to assess the situation and potential DFID support. A UN specialist team is also deploying, two of whose five team members are being supported by DFID.

We will keep the situation under very close review, as further heavy rains are expected.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on illegal uses of aid funds in Sierra Leone. [146855]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has received no representations on illegal uses of aid funds in Sierra Leone.

Somalia: Asylum

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of the number of Somalian refugees living in *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Kenya; and what assistance is being provided to these countries to assist with Somalian refugees. [146861]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 19,572 Somali refugees residing in Ethiopia and 182,000 in Kenya.

DFID has provided funding to UNHCR, the United Nations agency responsible for protecting and supporting refugees. In 2006 the UK was the seventh largest donor to UNHCR providing $51.99 million. Further UK support is given through the UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), which contributed $5.6 million and $2.1 million to UNHCR for refugee support in Kenya and Ethiopia respectively.

In November 2006 DFID Kenya provided £1.2 million to UNHCR for its refugee programme in North Eastern Kenya. We have also recently approved a grant of £850,000 to Action Against Hunger, an NGO providing emergency feeding for malnourished children including those in refugee camps. We have also approved £650,000 to the MENTOR Initiative for malaria control in north eastern Kenya including indoor residual spraying in the refugee camps.

In Ethiopia DFID is supporting the Humanitarian Response Fund managed by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This fund, to which DFID has contributed £5 million in 2006, can be used to assist refugees if this is deemed a humanitarian priority.

JUSTICE

Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the database under development by the Pre-Release Section to be operational. [147784]

Mr. Hanson: A new database for the Public Protection Unit in the National Offender Management Service in the Ministry of Justice is currently in development. For the Pre-Release Section in that unit, the database will allow, among other things, information to be recorded accurately relating to the tariff, Parole Board reviews and release of indeterminate sentence prisoners. There will need to be substantial data migration and testing of the new database, and this means that it is not likely to be operational until at least the end of the year.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147592]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. In the former DCA, the decision to fund Common Purpose was made at a regional level from discretionary budgets. Information on any allocation made was not held centrally. Information is not currently available on expenditure on Common Purpose for those who joined the new Ministry from the Home Office.

High Court: Ceremonies

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the purpose was of the ceremony he attended at the High Court on 4 July; what undertakings he gave; what oaths he swore; and if he will make a statement. [147831]

Mr. Straw: On 4 July I attended a formal ceremony of the public acclamation of my appointment to the office of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. At that ceremony I took the Oath of Allegiance, the Official Oath of Office as required by the Promissory Oaths Act 1868 ("the 1868 Act") and the new Oath required by section 17 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 ("the CRA 2005") in open Court in the presence of the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and the senior judiciary. The Oaths were:

Oath of Allegiance:

I John Whitaker Straw do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, according to law.

Official Oath:

I John Whitaker Straw do swear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second in the Office of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain.

The new Oath:

I John Whitaker Straw, do swear that in the Office of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain I will respect the rule of law, defend the independence of the judiciary and discharge my duty to ensure provision of resources for the efficient and effective support of the courts for which I am responsible. So help me God.

Prior to the coming into force of the CRA 2005 the Oaths taken, were those prescribed in Part 1 of the 1868 Act. The Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath are still taken in accordance with sections 2, 3 and 5 of the 1868 Act. However the requirement that the Lord Chancellor take the Judicial Oath in the form prescribed by section 6 and the second part of the Schedule to the 1868 Act was obviated by section 17 and Schedule 17 of the CRA 2005 which prescribed a new Oath as set out earlier in this answer. The long-standing format of the ceremonial was therefore amended to take account of the legislative changes which reflect the fact that the holder of the office of Lord Chancellor is no longer head of the judiciary and safeguards the interests of the judiciary as set out in the new Oath.

Legal Aid Scheme: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how legal aid funding was spent across Wales through the Crown courts in each of the last seven years, broken down by *(a)* the lowest possible geographical areas for which figures are available, *(b)* the type of case and *(c)* the nature of the work for which the legal aid was paid; and if he will make a statement. [147362]

Maria Eagle: The information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of legal cases in Wales were in receipt of legal aid in each of the last seven years, broken down *(a)* to the lowest possible geographical areas for which figures are available, *(b)* the type of case and *(c)* the nature of the work for which legal aid was paid; and if he will make a statement. [147363]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available.

Police Custody: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Welsh police forces have spent on housing prisoners under Operation Safeguard in each month since it began; and if he will make a statement. [147386]

Mr. Hanson: Police forces participating in Operation Safeguard charge NOMS for the cost of making police cells available to accommodate prisoners. To date, just over £400,000 has been invoiced and paid to police forces in Wales for housing prisoners since October 2006. As different police forces may submit monthly, bi-monthly or consolidated invoices in arrears that cover more than one month, the cost of Operation Safeguard in each month is not centrally held.

Prison Accommodation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice why different targets have been set for prisons run in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sectors for the percentage of prisoners held in accommodation units intended for fewer prisoners. [147356]

Mr. Hanson: The difference in these targets reflects a number of differences between publicly and privately operated prisons. Prisons operated by the private sector are generally of newer design and construction and have larger cells that can accommodate extra beds: many older public sector prisons have smaller cells that cannot accommodate extra beds. Some privately operated prisons were designed with scope to increase regime facilities in case of overcrowding while many public sector prisons have limited capacity to increase regime services. The private sector also has, proportionately, more local prisons, which have traditionally been more overcrowded than other types of prison.

Prison Service: Prison Officers' Association

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse has been of the recent case brought by the Prison Service against the Prison Officers Association; what response he has made to the judgment; and what steps he has taken to improve the relationship between the Service and the Association. [147270]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service's legal costs in the contempt of court case brought by the Service against the Prison Officers Association (POA) in May were estimated by Treasury solicitors to be about £16,000. Administrative and staffing costs within the Service are not able to be broken down to the level of detail required.

Following the settlement of this case on 8 May 2007, the Service received notice from the POA of their withdrawal from the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement. The Secretary of State met the POA on 6 June to discuss their withdrawal. I had a constructive meeting with the POA on 26 June to identify options for substantive talks to improve industrial relations.

Prisons: Psychology

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of living increase in 2007 will be for forensic psychologists (in training) in the prison service. [147818]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service has received a number of inquiries about the lack of a cost-of-living increase for psychology and other specialist grades in 2006. However, those staff who did not receive a cost-of-living increase could still have benefited from a progression-related pay increase of up to 3 per cent. Negotiations with the trade unions for the 2007 pay award are continuing.

Re-offenders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that information about a defendant's status as a persistent and prolific offender is disclosable to the court prior to sentencing. [146391]

Bridget Prentice: Guidance to the courts on handling Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) cases was issued by the Senior Presiding Judge in April 2005.

This sets out that it is inappropriate for any person to inform a court that a defendant is alleged to be a PPO and that such an allegation is not relevant to the sentence of the court.

A sentencing court will however be provided with full details of offending history, previous sentences, current circumstances and a risk assessment, together with the sentencing options available.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in her Office in each year between 1997 and 2006; and at what total cost. [146586]

Helen Goodman: Following the recent machinery of Government changes which saw the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons transfer from the Privy Council Office to the Cabinet Office, we are currently unable to provide a substantive answer to this question.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Flexible Working

20. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the merits of encouraging employers to advertise posts as available for flexible working to help lone parents and carers back into the workplace. [147658]

Ms Harman: The benefits of advertising posts as available for flexible working are to give employers access to a bigger pool of talent. Jobcentre Plus are looking at various ways of improving services for carers, including the possibility of recording vacancies where flexible working is an option.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of levels of awareness of flexible working rights amongst eligible parents. [147661]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Third Work Life Balance employee survey 2006 found that 65 per cent. of parents with children under six are aware of the right to request flexible working.

This compares favourably with other new employment rights.

Local Authority Employment

21. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the reasons for the under-representation of women on local authorities. [147659]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The Government set up the Councillors Commission to, among other things, look at the underrepresentation of women in local government. It aims to report in November 2007 and will make recommendations to help address the imbalances.

At present women make up 29.3 per cent. of councillors in England. Only three per cent. Of them are from ethnic minorities. I am committed to improving these figures.

Ethnic Minorities

22. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to tackle inequalities affecting ethnic minority women in the workplace. [147660]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

As the EOC's investigation revealed Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Black Caribbean women often struggle to get jobs and progress within them. The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force will take steps to enable ethnic minority women to address this problem. The establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights will help address instances of multiple discrimination.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 June, *Official Report*, column 327-8W on alcoholic drinks: young people, when he expects the Police Service of Northern Ireland Community Safety Branch to publish its first set of statistics outlining the number of incidents of underage drinking in public places. [146805]

Paul Goggins: PSNI have advised that data are currently being collected about the number of young people who are detected drinking alcohol and dealt with through the Youth Diversion Scheme.

This statistical information will be available for issue in January 2008.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147597]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office paid £4,395 to Common Purpose during the 2006-07 financial year as part of the Department's Leadership Development Programme for senior managers. The outcome will be evaluated later this year to determine the extent to which the Common Purpose Programme met the identified development needs and contributed to meeting NIO business objectives.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146923]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office six members of staff did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147053]

Paul Goggins: The details requested on sick leave in the last 12 months are shown in the following table:

	Number of staff
Five or more periods of sick leave	7
Four periods of sick leave	13
Three periods of sick leave	52
Two periods of sick leave	183

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 17-18W, on sexual offences, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the 31 per cent. rate of successful prosecutions for rape. [146810]

Paul Goggins: Rape and serious sexual assaults are some of the most serious crimes that police have to investigate, especially with regard to the traumatic effect it has on the victims. Historically there have been a significant number of victims who initially report rapes to police but who later decide they do not wish to pursue the investigation through to court. These cases therefore form a major element of the number not proceeding to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). In addition a significant proportion of those that do proceed to the PPS subsequently fail and go no further due to lack of evidence.

PSNI are seeking to improve performance in such investigations in a number of ways:

PSNI have recently contributed to a multi-agency sexual violence strategy. One important aspect of this work is the proposed establishment of a specialist sexual assault referral centre. The improvement in services and support to victims, together with the more effective ways of retaining forensic evidence, is expected to increase the number of prosecutions;

An internal review has recently been carried out into the way the child abuse and rape enquiry (CARE) teams carry out their investigations. As a result, the PSNI are planning later this year to restructure these investigations by establishing specialist teams whose sole task will be to investigate rape and other serious sexual assaults;

PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service have recently begun to analyse a number of rape investigations in order that they continue to develop models of best investigative practice. In particular, attention will focus upon case building and the significant number of cases that currently do not make the threshold for prosecution.

Smuggling: Fuels

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were prosecuted for smuggling fuel into Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [146945]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

In the year 2004-05 there were four prosecutions for smuggling fuel into Northern Island resulting in two convictions. In 2005-06 there were five prosecutions, but no resulting convictions. In the same year there were two successful prosecutions for dealing with fuel on which duty had not been paid. In 2006-07 there were five prosecutions resulting in five convictions.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers are unpaid; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the provision of facilities for them to carry out their ministerial duties. [147822]

The Prime Minister: The cost of the provision of facilities for Ministers who are unpaid will be met from existing departmental budgets.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147603]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has made no payments to Common Purpose in the last five years.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147337]

David Cairns: The staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and remain on the payroll of their parent Department. The Scotland Office does not hold information on which staff avail themselves of AVCs.

Energy Supply

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on security of the energy supply *(a)* to and *(b)* in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [147717]

David Cairns: I have not yet had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the First Minister. The Government's Energy White Paper, published in May this year, sets out how we will approach ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy supplies while tackling climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Many of the policies in the White Paper

apply to the UK as a whole, although some key areas, such as planning consent for new power stations, are devolved to the Scottish Executive.

Ministerial Duties

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedures he will adopt to determine how to prioritise his responsibilities as Secretary of State for Scotland against his other ministerial responsibilities. [147786]

David Cairns: The previous two Secretaries of State for Scotland have both undertaken a combined role, holding two portfolios in the Cabinet. It is a tried and tested model and has worked well in the past four years. The approach involves managing priorities and structuring work loads, working in close liaison with ministerial colleagues in both Departments.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether free concessionary travel will be available to older and disabled passengers on open-top tourist buses registered as local bus services under the proposed national scheme. [146469]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An eligible pass holder will be able to travel for free in the off-peak on any registered local bus service anywhere in England from April next year. Although the Concessionary Bus Travel Bill does not change the definition of what is an eligible service for the statutory concession, we are considering whether changes should be made via an Order in the future if it is decided that clarification is required. In the interim, it will remain for operators and local authorities to assess which services are covered in accordance with the criteria set out in the current legislation.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to allocate the £212 million additional funding being made available to local authorities for the 2008 English National Concessionary Fares Scheme to local authorities according to the costs of each local authority scheme. [146468]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government will be providing up to an extra £250 million per year for the national bus concession (£212 million after Barnett allocations). We are confident this will be sufficient overall to cover the total extra costs to local authorities.

The extra funding will either be distributed via the formula grant system (as is the case for current funding of mandatory concession) or specific grant. A decision on the funding route will be made in due course.

Bus Services: Technology

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of introducing smartcard readers to the English bus fleet; and what discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* small and *(b)* large bus operators on the schedule for implementing such a scheme. [146466]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no accurate estimate available for the cost of introducing smartcard readers to the English bus fleet. There would be a wide range of cost estimates depending on the number of eligible buses, the number and scope of back office systems, the extent to which the whole life cost of bus equipment was borne upfront and the impact of higher production volumes on costs.

Discussions have taken place with bus operators, and local authorities, on the possibility of specifying ITSO compliant smartcards as the format of the pass for the new national bus concession commencing in April 2008. However, these have not covered the schedule for any introduction of smartcard readers.

Car Sharing

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many high occupancy vehicle lanes have been brought into use since 1997. [147153]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Three high occupancy vehicle lane schemes have been brought into use in England since 1997. These are on the A370 Long Ashton Bypass in North Somerset, the A647 in Leeds, and the A4174 Avon Ring Road in South Gloucestershire.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146087]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Officials throughout the Department for Transport are involved in the full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in the Europe, International and Better Regulation Division total 15. The Department currently has four officials seconded to the UK Permanent Representation in Brussels and seven to the European Commission. In the Department as a whole, including its Agencies, resourcing must respond to the level of EU business. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146926]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 47 staff in the Department for Transport did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects originally valued at more than £5 million her Department has funded since 1997, broken down by Government Office region; and what *(a)* the cost at inception and *(b)* the outturn cost at project completion was of each. [147089]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the following NAO publications, which give initial and outturn costs for the West Coast Main Line and Channel Tunnel Rail Link, as well as all Highways Agency schemes:

HC321 2006-07—Estimating and monitoring the costs of building roads in England;

HC22 2006-07—The Modernisation of the West Coast Main Line; and

HC77 2005-06—Progress on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

The compilation of comparable information for the Department's remaining projects could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Driving Under Influence

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what data her Department has on the number of accidents in each year from 1997 to 2005 that were caused by drivers whose blood alcohol level was *(a)* over 80ml, *(b)* between 80 and 50ml and *(c)* under 50ml; and if she will make a statement. [147469]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Blood alcohol content level information is only available for cases in which a driver was killed. Additionally, the blood alcohol content information is only available for approximately two thirds of these driver fatalities. In these cases, the number of reported road accidents involving at least one driver or rider with a blood alcohol level of *(a)* over 80ml, *(b)* between 50 and 80ml, and *(c)* under 50ml is shown in the table.

Number of accidents

Blood alcohol level	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Under 50ml	866	857	881	907	941	892	1,051	926
50-80ml	25	28	26	21	25	24	34	26
Over 80ml	193	166	185	212	219	224	251	261

Final figures for 2005 are not yet available.

The report of the second three-year review of the Government's road safety strategy, published in February 2007, explains that we are planning a public consultation process on drinking and driving later this year, including ways in which enforcement of laws against drinking and driving might be made easier for the police.

Galileo Project

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Galileo project will have the functionality to facilitate the implementation of a national road-pricing scheme; and if she will make a statement. [146871]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Global Navigational Satellite Systems (GNSS), including both GPS and Galileo, can support a wide range of applications. However, no decisions have been taken on whether to proceed with the introduction of a national road pricing scheme or on the technology that might be used to support such a scheme.

M6: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which routes Lancashire county council submitted to the Government in July 2005 as part of the county council's major business case for the Heysham to M6 link. [147897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Lancashire county council's major scheme business case for the Heysham to M6 Link, submitted in July 2005, included details of the Northern Route (the Preferred Option), the Western Route (as the Next Best Option) and online improvements to the existing highway network (as the Lower Cost Option).

M60: Road Signs and Markings

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 727W, on M60: road signs and markings, whether legislative changes are necessary in order for Highways Agency traffic officers to use scrolling arrows in their vehicles to direct traffic on the M60. [147357]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Legislative changes would be required to prescribe scrolling arrows for use as traffic signs. It would be possible in principle to authorise these specially for use on the M60, but the chevron symbols are very small, and there are concerns about their safety and effectiveness on high-speed roads. Officials are considering how this might best be assessed.

Public Transport: Urban Areas

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the contribution of late night public transport to public safety, particularly from town and city centres; and if she will make a statement. [147394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local authorities are addressing crime and fear of crime issues in order to promote public transport use (including for the growing night time economy) through their Local Transport Plans.

The Department is also currently assessing how the latest Crime and Disorder audits and strategies are addressing transport crime issues, including the public safety of passengers and staff using public transport at night.

TREASURY

Al-Yamamah Project

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 362W, on the Al-Yamamah project, how many different bank accounts were examined as part of budgeting and accounting activities undertaken by his Department in relation to the management fee received by the Ministry of Defence from the Saudi Arabian government as part of the Al-Yamamah programme; and how many staff from his Department were involved in those activities. [147751]

Andy Burnham: The Treasury did not examine any bank accounts as part of these activities.

Buildings: Cabinet Office

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Cabinet Office on Project George in the last 12 months. [146870]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials engage with their counterparts in other departments, including the Cabinet Office, on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was allocated to offsetting the carbon dioxide emissions estimated to have arisen from his Department in respect of flights in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how many tonnes of carbon equivalent were estimated to have arisen from such flights in each case. [147106]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1027W. This year, the Treasury is contributing £18,286 to the DEFRA-run Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, which will offset 1,845 tonnes of carbon emissions from official and ministerial flights from April 2006 to April 2007.

Departments: Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1881W to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on Departments: property, from which organisations his Department received letting income in each financial year from 2003-04 to 2006-07; and how much was received from each organisation. [146489]

Angela Eagle: The income the Treasury has received from the subletting of space in the 1 Horse Guards building since 2002-03, by organisation, is given in the following table:

£000

	Financial year				
Organisation name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cabinet Office[1]	67	-47	150	215	1,095
Exchequer Partnership	—	227	162	163	162
Office of Government Commerce	—	—	67	189	185
Royal Mint	18	19	19	18	22
Economics in Government Unit	—	—	—	53	—
Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services	—	—	—	—	19
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	—	2	2	6
National Association of Pension Funds	—	—	—	6	—
Home Office[2]	175	-175	—	—	—
Others (received less than £5,000 and corrections)	17	-10	15	12	6
Total	211	14	415	658	1,495

[1] The 2003-04 figure includes a £67,000 credit, which cancels the invoice from the previous year.
[2] The 2003-04 figure cancels the invoice from the previous year.

It has been drawn to my attention that a written answer given on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1881W by the former Financial Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) was incorrect in respect to the income received from the subletting of space in 2002-03. The earlier answer reported the total for that year to be nil. However, this figure was net of a transfer of excess income to another account. Before the transfer, the income received from subletting space in the 1 Horse Guards road building during 2002-03 was £277,000. The Treasury very much regrets this inadvertent error.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147055]

Angela Eagle: The numbers of staff that have taken periods of sick leave of less than five days for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007 are as follows.

Number of episodes	*Number of staff*
5+	31
4	28
3	45
2	109

Departments: Telephone Numbering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by each of his departmental agencies; and what revenue was received from them in each year since 2001. [147167]

Angela Eagle: The following table lists the number of non-geographic telephone numbers in use by each of the agencies and what revenue was received in each year since 2001. In the case of those departmental agencies where numbers are not listed, the information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Name	*Number of non geographical numbers*	*Revenue for period requested (£)*
VGA	3	0
GAD	0	0
Royal Mint	85	0
HMT	0	0
OGC	9	0
NS and I	9	0
DMO	320	0
HMRC	n/a.	0
ONS	n/a	n/a

General Practitioners: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Treasury had made of the cost of a new GP contract prior to his 2002 Budget announcement that the new funding settlement for the NHS would pay for a new contract for family doctors. [146525]

Andy Burnham: Discussions took place between Treasury and Department of Health officials on a range of issues before the 2002 Budget.

Health Spending Team

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the objectives are of his Department's Health Spending Team. [146526]

Andy Burnham: The Treasury's Health spending team contributes to the Treasury's objectives. These can be viewed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_aimsobject.cfm

Industrial and Agricultural Building Allowances Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he has received on the changes proposed in the Budget to the industrial and agricultural building allowances scheme; and what assessment he has made of the future impact of such changes on agricultural spending. [147093]

Jane Kennedy: By 29 June, the Treasury has received 48 individual representations on the withdrawal of industrial and agricultural buildings allowances.

A general impact assessment will be published in advance of the relevant legislation, which will be included in Finance Bill 2008.

The withdrawal of IBAs and ABAs is not an isolated measure. The Budget also announced cuts in both the basic rate of income tax and the main rate of corporation tax and the introduction of a new annual investment allowance (AIA) of £50,000 for business investment from 2008. The specific impact that these reforms will have on agricultural spending, or spending in any other industry cannot therefore be easily assessed or viewed in isolation. Taken as a whole, however, these reforms to the business and personal tax systems are designed to deliver increases in investment and growth overall.

Inheritance Tax: Edinburgh

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was raised from inheritance tax on estates within the City of Edinburgh local authority area in each year since 1996; [147720]

(2) how many estates within the City of Edinburgh local authority area were subject to inheritance tax in each year since 1996. [147721]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for estates paying inheritance tax and amounts of tax paid are not available at local levels.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007 to the hon. Member for Rayleigh, *Official Report*, column 1313W, on NHS: consultants, which of his Department's Ministers were involved in these discussions. [146550]

Andy Burnham: Treasury Ministers and officials have frequent discussions with their counterparts at the Department of Health as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Public Expenditure: Home Office and the Ministry of Justice

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of annual average real growth is for the budget of *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* the Ministry of Justice for the years covered by his Comprehensive Spending Review. [146548]

Andy Burnham: The departments concerned are bound by the combined totals agreed by the Home Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs at their early settlements announced at Budget 2006 and the pre-Budget report 2006 respectively. They are currently in discussions about the transfers of functions and resources associated with the Machinery of Government changes announced on 29 March. Full details of the settlements for all departments, including those involved in Machinery of Government changes, will be announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Public Expenditure: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total Government spending was for *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham, *(b)* Worcester and *(c)* Telford constituency in 2006. [147666]

Andy Burnham: Information on total identifiable expenditure per capita for each region of England is set out in the HM Treasury publication, 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007', May 2007. This provides outturn data for 2005-06 and planned outturns for 2006-07. The PESA publication is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_publications/pespub_pesa07.cfm.

The Government do not currently disaggregate spending data below regional level.

Taxation: Domicile

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library the results of the research commissioned by his Department in April 2005 on the economic and fiscal effects of non-domicile exemptions; and if he will make a statement; [143029]

(2) when he last collected information on changes to the residence and domicile rules and related economic effects; and if he will make a statement; [143031]

(3) if he will place in the Library the results of research commissioned by his Department since April 2005 on the economic and fiscal effects of non-domicile tax exemptions; and if he will make a statement; [143032]

(4) when he last collected information on numbers of people who indicated non-domicile status on their self-assessment tax returns; and if he will make a statement. [143034]

Jane Kennedy: The review of the residence and domicile rules that govern personal taxation is on-going; as such, information is collected to support the continuing policy development process as and when necessary. No research has been formally commissioned from external sources.

The most recent statistics available on the number of people who indicated non-domicile status on their self-assessment tax returns relates to the tax year 2004-05. In that year 112,000 people indicated non-domiciles status.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which officials in his Department are responsible for the ongoing review into non-domicile taxation; [147011]

(2) which external advisers are involved in the ongoing review into non-domicile taxation; [147012]

(3) on which dates the review group for non-domicile taxation has met since the review began; [147013]

(4) whether there *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be an external consultation period as part of the ongoing review into non-domicile taxation; [147014]

(5) what the cost was of the review group into non-domicile taxation in each year since 1997; [147077]

(6) what evidence the review into non-domicile taxation has collected about comparable tax regimes in overseas countries; and if he will make a statement; [147078]

(7) how many submissions the review group into non-domicile taxation has made to Ministers; and on which dates; [147079]

(8) if he will publish external submissions to the review for non-domicile taxation. [147080]

Jane Kennedy: The review of the residence and domicile rules that govern personal taxation is being led by officials from Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Background Paper 'Reviewing the residence and domicile rules as they affect the taxation of individuals' published at Budget 2003 outlined research into how other countries' tax personal systems operate. The Background Paper also invited stakeholders to share their views on how the residence domicile rules operate. In addition Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs conducted a series of listening sessions with stakeholders between 2003 and 2005.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration the Office of Government Commerce has given to procurement of waste treatment and disposal services. [146783]

Angela Eagle: The OGC Kelly Report to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 'Improving Competition and Capacity Planning in the Municipal Waste Market', was published in May 2006. It made recommendations designed to tackle procurement barriers in the waste market. This study was conducted with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). DEFRA established the Waste Infrastructure Development Programme to take forward the recommendations. The work of this programme is detailed in DEFRA's 'Waste Strategy for England 2007', which was published in May 2007.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit *(a)* maladministration and *(b)* consolatory payments were made in each month between October 2006 and June 2007. [147367]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, "Complaints and Putting Things Right", which is available at: www.hmrc.gov.uk

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of its mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays. It does not keep separate details of compensation payments made specifically due to "maladministration" or "poor service". The number of compensation payments made in each month between October 2006 and May 2007 is shown in the following table. The number of compensation payments made in June 2007 is not yet available.

	Number
October 2006	614
November 2006	663

	Number
December 2006	581
January 2007	728
February 2007	739
March 2007	834
April 2007	530
May 2007	813

WALES

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147346]

Mr. Hain: People's travelling patterns vary, and we do not collect information systematically, but we estimate that 75-80 per cent. of Wales Office staff walk, cycle or use public transport to commute to and from work.

Police: Driving Under Influence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many police officers in Wales were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for drink driving related offences in each of the last three years. [147402]

Mr. Hain: This information is not collected centrally.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability living allowance claims have been made in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [146660]

Mrs. McGuire: From June 2006 to May 2007, approximately 438,620 claims for disability living allowance were received.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability living allowance claims have been turned down in the last 12 months; how many of these have gone to appeal; how many cases have won their appeal; and if he will make a statement. [146661]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance (DLA) claims and appeals 2005-06

	Number
DLA claims refused	228,050
DLA appeals lodged	82,990
DLA appeals cleared in favour	35,490

Notes:
1. DLA claims figures are drawn from management information and should not be used in conjunction with sample statistics drawn from the benefit administration systems.
2. Appeals figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
3. Appeals figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DCS computer system and 100 per cent download of the Generic Appeals Processing System

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability living allowance awards in the last 12 months have been for *(a)* a fixed period and *(b)* an indefinite period; and if he will make a statement. [146662]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

New DLA awards made in the 12 months to November 2006

	Number
Indefinite award	66,000
Fixed award	163,500

Notes:
1. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Figures have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data.
5. Figures are for entitled to DLA and will include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
6. Awards are considered to be fixed where the claim has an end date recorded, all others are assumed indefinite.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, five per cent sample.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been asked to attend a disability living allowance medical examination in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [146665]

Mrs. McGuire: 74,013 people were asked to attend a disability living allowance medical examination between June 2006 and May 2007.

Employment Schemes: Advertising

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which publications his Department will be placing advertising as part of the Employability Initiative. [146847]

Mrs. McGuire: The Employ Ability campaign will be piloted in four cities before further rollout across the UK next year. These cities are Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Bradford. Our primary target audience is small to medium sized employers.

The Employ Ability campaign is still in development stages and media plans have not been fully finalised. The following regional publications have been provisionally chosen for their relevance with our target audience:

Metro - Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire editions

Liverpool Daily Post

Manchester Evening News

Yorkshire Evening Post

Bradford Telegraph & Argus

Business Insider - North West and Yorkshire editions

EN Magazine - North West

Business Link - Yorkshire and Lincolnshire

It should be noted that these titles may be subject to change.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes claimed incapacity benefits in each year between 1995 and 2007. [146672]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in England and Milton Keynes local authority

Quarter ending November each year	*Milton Keynes*	*England*
1995	6,400	2,234,800
1996	6,500	2,233,100
1997	6,600	2,235,200
1998	6,600	2,188,900
1999	6,750	2,167,270
2000	6,950	2,191,270
2001	7,150	2,216,880
2002	7,310	2,246,080
2003	7,530	2,256,890
2004	7,840	2,257,580
2005	7,270	2,211,600
2006	7,690	2,187,530

Notes:
1. November 1995 to November 1998 (inclusive) numbers are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. November 1999 to November 2006 (inclusive) numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. November 1995 to November 1998 (inclusive) numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
4. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent sample and 100 per cent Work and Pensions longitudinal study.

Jobcentre Plus

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of jobs advertised through Jobcentre Plus referred the applicant to *(a)* an employment agency and *(b)* an employment business in the last month for which figures are available; [146555]

(2) what criteria an employment agency or business must meet to have one of their positions advertised through Jobcentre Plus; [146556]

(3) what proportion of the agencies and businesses advertising positions through Jobcentre Plus have signed the Diversity Matters pledge. [146557]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 5 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to rely to your questions about employment agencies and employment businesses that advertise vacancies through Jobcentre Plus; and what proportion of those agencies and businesses have signed the Diversity Matters pledge. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The number of vacancies placed by employment agencies and businesses in May 2007 was 23,414. This equates to 38.2 per cent. of all jobs notified to Jobcentre Plus. We do not differentiate between employment agencies and employment businesses for the purpose of recording vacancies.

Jobcentre Plus will only accept vacancies from recruitment agencies if they sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) agreeing to the terms for using our services.

The SLA specifies that:

only genuine vacancies will be advertised through the Jobcentre Plus website;

the vacancy is compliant with all UK legislation and employment law;

the vacancy has not been placed with the intention of compiling a register;

the agency has a contract with the employer in respect of the vacancy;

the agency must supply details of pay, conditions and the end employer; and

no charges will be made to our customers as a result of applying.

Jobcentre Plus takes these conditions very seriously and will investigate any complaints that individual agencies are not complying with the terms of the SLA. This ultimately could lead to us terminating service with a recruitment agency in breach of their agreement.

Since its launch in October 2005 around 600 agencies have signed up to the Diversity Matters Pledge administered by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation. However, we do not know how many of the agencies use Jobcentre Plus to advertise their vacancies and therefore are not able to specify the proportion using Jobcentre Plus that have signed the Diversity Matters pledge.

I hope this is helpful.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 July 2007

TRANSPORT

Cycleways

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many dedicated cycle routes have been brought into use since 1997. [147152]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These figures are not collected centrally. A cycle route is often made up of a combination of cycle lanes, cycle tracks and the local road network.

Some data on the number of cycle tracks and cycle lanes constructed since 2001-02 are held although they are not complete. Local authorities outside London have reported through their local transport plans they have built the following number of new cycle lanes and cycle tracks:

	Total number of cycle lanes and cycle tracks built
2001-02	810
2002-03	991
2003-04	999
2004-05	956
2005-06	[1]744
Total	4,500

[1] 2005-06 data are yet to be audited and from this year the "good" and "excellent" rated authorities do not have to supply the above data.

Similar figures are not available for London boroughs but Transport for London report that 531km of the London Cycle Network+ were completed by May 2006 with a target of 900km due for completion by end 2010.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps she has taken in the last year to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147340]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 344 members of staff in Department for Transport (1.8 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of staff in the Department for Transport who have taken periods of sick leave of less than five days during the financial year 2006-07 are:

Periods of sick leave	*Number of staff*
5 or more periods	614
4 periods	581
3 periods	1,201
2 periods	2,749

The Department is committed to managing sick absence effectively and continues to look at initiatives to help reduce absence levels. The management process includes early intervention by Occupational Health and conducting return to work interviews with staff.

Driving Offences: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in the West Chelmsford area had nine points on their driving licence at the most recent date for which figures are available. [148080]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not readily available from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in fines from traffic cameras in *(a)* the Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years; and how much of those monies was spent on road safety plans in each year. [148077]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available for the Chelmsford local authority area. The audit certificates for the Essex Safety Camera Partnership for the last five financial years outlined in table A show the fine revenue from conditional offer of fixed penalties for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then National Safety Camera Programme.

Table A

	£
2001-02	3,524,120
2002-03	5,672,220
2003-04	5,137,740
2004-05	4,710,300
2005-06	4,732,860

Under the then netting off funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships reclaimed expenditure

directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of offences. The amounts reclaimed by the Essex partnership in these financial years is set out in table B. The surplus was returned to the Consolidated Fund.

Table B

	£
2001-02	3,179,304
2002-03	5,150,286
2003-04	5,037,293
2004-05	4,622,413
2005-06	4,257,190

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were fined for speeding in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [148079]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available for the Chelmsford local authority area. The information on the number of people fined for speeding in Essex in the last five years for which information is available is set out in the following table and has been provided by the Home Office. This shows all speeding offences in Essex including those detected outside the then National Safety Camera Programme.

	Fixed penalty tickets	*Fines (court proceedings)*	*Total*
2000	46,300	2,800	49,100
2001	81,900	6,500	88,400
2002	98,100	12,200	110,300
2003	64,500	7,400	71,900
2004	65,300	6,700	72,000

Exhaust Emissions: Pollution Control

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of *(a)* selective catalytic reduction and *(b)* exhaust gas recirculation technologies as measures to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from vehicles. [148041]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Both Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) and Exhaust Gas Recirculation are effective methods for reducing Nitrogen Oxide (NO_X) emissions from diesel vehicles. Exhaust Gas Recirculation is effective at low-medium engine load and can deliver moderate reductions in NO_X emissions. Selective Catalytic Reduction is effective up to full engine load and can deliver substantial NO_X reductions, but at higher cost than Exhaust Gas Recirculation.

Exhaust Gas Recirculation is already widely used on diesel cars and vans. Selective Catalytic Reduction is fitted to the majority of new Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and buses.

Selective Catalytic Reduction relies on the use of a consumable reagent to reduce NO_X. From November 2007, new HGV and bus engines are required to monitor emission control systems and limit engine power in the event of their failing to operate. This is essential to encourage operators to keep the systems maintained and the SCR reagent topped up, and so ensure that NO_X savings are actually delivered in operation.

The Department for Transport takes into account the capabilities and costs of specific technologies when developing the United Kingdom's negotiating position on EU vehicle emission standards, but does not prescribe which technology industry should use to meet tighter emissions standards. Our Regulatory Impact Assessment on car and van Euro 5 emissions standards considered both of these technologies and can be found at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/emissionstandardseuro5/

The Department is currently examining different potential scenarios for future HGV and bus emissions standards and will consider the future capabilities of both of these technologies in this exercise.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions from vehicles. [148042]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Legislation to limit the emissions of pollutants from vehicles (including nitrogen oxide emissions) was first introduced in the 1970s. Particularly stringent standards, known colloquially as "Euro 1" were adopted in the early 1990s.

Since then, successive standards have progressively tightened emissions limits with new vehicles currently having to meet Euro 4 standards. The Department for Transport has fully engaged with the European Commission, European Parliament, other member states and stakeholders in developing these standards.

Between 1990 and 2004, these standards reduced the total quantity of oxides of nitrogen emitted from heavy duty vehicles by some 37 per cent. and from light duty vehicles (cars and vans) by 70 per cent.[1]

[1] Table 4.15—UK Emissions of Air Pollutants 1970 to 2004, AEA Energy and Environment December 2006

However despite these reductions nitrogen oxide emissions from road vehicles, in particular diesel vehicles, continue to be an air quality concern in the UK and throughout the EU. For this reason at the end of 2005 the European Commission published a proposal for tighter Euro 5 emissions standards for cars and vans. I am pleased to be able to state that, not only have these standards been recently adopted by the European Council and Parliament, but that the UK also successfully secured a further (Euro 6) round of standards which tighten diesel NOx limits by 68 per cent. compared to current Euro 4 standards. This will put the permitted levels for diesels close to the very low levels of petrol engined vehicles.

We expect the European Commission to come forward with proposals to further tighten heavy duty vehicle emission standards late this year or early next. As usual the Department will fully engage in the negotiation of these standards.

In order to bring forward further improvements in air quality the Government offer financial incentives to purchase vehicles built to more stringent emissions standards in advance of the standards becoming mandatory. The Government offer such incentives through the Reduced Pollution Certificate scheme. This will, from October 2007, offer heavy duty vehicle and bus operators a

reduction in Vehicle Excise Duty of up to £500 per annum for vehicles which are fully compliant with the next level of standards in advance of their mandatory application in 2009.

Motorways: Closures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the M1 motorway was closed in both directions in South Yorkshire on 26 June; on whose authority such closure was made; and if she will make a statement. [148004]

Mr. Tom Harris: South Yorkshire police closed the M1 on 26 June between junctions 32 and junctions 34 northbound and junctions 36 and 32 southbound in response to the threat posed by the possible failure of the dam at Ulley reservoir in South Yorkshire.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what systems are in place to ensure that motorways are not unnecessarily closed for precautionary reasons when no incident, emergency accident or disaster has taken place; and if she will make a statement. [148005]

Mr. Tom Harris: The safety of our roads and customers who use them is paramount.

For each unique occasion (such as recently on the M1) a full and detailed risk assessment is carried out and supported by consultation and advice taken from all appropriate parties, including the police, fire service, local authorities and the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service. Consideration is given to all contributory factors to determine the level of potential risk posed to both public and workers' safety should no action be taken. Any full or partial precautionary road closure deemed necessary would follow where the risk to safety is calculated to outweigh the effect of disruption.

National Roads Telecommunications Services Project

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1461W, on the National Roads Telecommunications Services project (NRTS), whether the NRTS will have the capacity to be used for *(a)* the detection of speeding and issuing of fines, *(b)* traffic and parking enforcement and *(c)* road pricing or congestion charging. [146885]

Mr. Tom Harris: The NRTS network has the capacity to support existing speed detection and other traffic enforcement systems as required to implement the Highways Agency's operational regimes such as active traffic management.

No allowance has been made to support road pricing in the current NRTS network capacity calculations. If required, the network capacity could be increased to support such an initiative. However, no decision has been taken on any national road pricing scheme.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1461W, on the National Roads Telecommunications Services project (NRTS), whether the NRTS will interface with the automated number plate recognition infrastructure. [146886]

Mr. Tom Harris: The NRTS solution is flexible enough to connect to a wide range of external devices which could include automated number plate recognition (ANPR).

Ports: Planning

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what objections were lodged by statutory consultees to port applications in respect of *(a)* London Gateway, *(b)* Dibden Bay, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Harwich; and which of these objections were withdrawn during the application process. [148037]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. There are no statutory consultees in respect of harbour revision and harbour empowerment orders for ports. Statutory organisations have the opportunity to make objections to draft harbour orders on the same basis as any other objector.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many objections from local residents and third parties were submitted in respect of port applications in respect of *(a)* London Gateway, *(b)* Dibden Bay, *(c)* Liverpool and *(d)* Harwich. [148038]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to disaggregate precise figures for numbers of objections made in each case. The approximate numbers of objections made to the applications for harbour orders, including those by statutory organisations as well as local residents and third parties, were *(a)* 225 for London Gateway, *(b)* 6,140 for Dibden Bay, *(c)* 36 for Seaforth River Terminal at Liverpool and *(d)* 500 for Bathside Bay, Harwich.

Railways: South Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received on the train services operated by Great Western between London and south Wales. [147221]

Mr. Tom Harris: Department for Transport has received approximately 30 letters and e-mails on First Great Western rail services between London and south Wales since January 2007.

South West Trains: Fares

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the terms of South West Trains' franchise are on penalty fares; what assessment she has made of the company's compliance with its franchise on penalty fares; and if she will make a statement. [147834]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Railways Act 1993 Section 130 is the basis for charging penalty fares on National Rail. The subsequent (Penalty Fares) Regulations 1994 allowed for by the 1993 Act in turn provided for the creation of Penalty Fares Rules. These Rules were last revised in 2002 and under them any operator wishing to charge penalty fares must submit a scheme for the approval of the Secretary of State. South West Trains currently have an approved penalty fares scheme.

Tankers: Oil

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the potential for pollution along the east coast arising from the transfer at sea of oil from small carriers to bulk ocean-going tankers. [147797]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not made any recent assessment of the potential for pollution along the east coast of Great Britain arising from the transfer at sea of oil from smaller tankers to larger tankers.

Town and Country Planning Order 1995

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the Highways Agency has used powers under Article 14 of the Town and Country Planning Order 1995 on her behalf; and if she will place in the Library a list of these instances. [147088]

Mr. Tom Harris: With the sole exception of proposals for advertisements, all of the Highways Agency's responses to planning applications are issued under Article 14 of the General Development Procedure Order 1995. From May 2006 to May 2007 (last full year available) 2,672 article 14 responses were issued by the Agency to the local planning authorities. Details of each case can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bass: Conservation

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to increase the minimum landing size for bass. [146910]

Jonathan Shaw: I plan to make an announcement shortly on whether and when to introduce an increased minimum landing size for bass.

Biodiversity: Cooperation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a partnership body has been established to coordinate work between the Forestry Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan. [148093]

Joan Ruddock: I have asked the Forestry Commission and Natural England to prepare a joint action plan for implementing the recently published "Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests". No new body is being created, but this partnership will ensure good coordination with the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Woodland Trust and Natural England on the potential loss of European woodland to bio-fuels production. [147691]

Joan Ruddock: No specific meetings have been arranged to discuss this topic. However, both bodies responded to the Department for Transport's recent consultation on the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation Order and were reasonably supportive of it, provided there were strong sustainability safeguards. Although both organisations were concerned about deforestation in a global context, they did not specifically mention European woodland. The Woodland Trust, in particular, saw the increased demand for bio-fuels as providing an opportunity to regenerate ancient woodlands.

Views from these two organisations will continue to be taken into account when developing policy in this area.

Carbon Emissions: Pollution Control

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received since the launch of the Act on CO_2 calculator; and what assessment he has made of the impact that the calculator will have on people's long-term energy habits. [147156]

Mr. Woolas: There were 86,104 visitors to the Act on CO_2 calculator during its first week. We have asked people to comment on how to improve the current public trial version of the calculator and have had more than 300 e-mail responses from members of the public. We will take these suggestions on board as we introduce improvements to the calculator over the next few months.

The Action Plan at the end of the calculator gives tailored recommendations to users on how to reduce their overall carbon footprint by 20 per cent. The recommendations include looking at energy consumption in the home and cover both one-off and habitual behaviour changes.

Coastal Erosion: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether additional funds will be allocated to Hengistbury Head in Bournemouth for coastal protection. [147898]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. It funds most of the Environment Agency's flood-related work and grant aids individual capital improvement projects undertaken by local authorities and internal drainage boards. DEFRA does not carry out works, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake.

Bournemouth borough council are the coast protection authority responsible for Hengistbury Head and they have been monitoring coastal erosion at this location. The Environment Agency has asked all operating authorities for their medium term plans for 2008-09 onwards. It is for Bournemouth borough council to decide on the inclusion of this, or other works, in their response to the Agency.

We will use new Outcome Measures from next year to set out more clearly what we wish our overall programme to achieve. Ministers will set targets and the Agency will make decisions on how best to deliver these by applying a prioritisation system agreed with DEFRA. Any scheme at Hengistbury Head will have

to be considered as part of this prioritisation system and against the many other worthwhile coastal schemes.

English Nature: Judicial Review

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many judicial reviews brought against English Nature between 1997 and 2007 in the *(a)* High Court, *(b)* Court of Appeal and *(c)* House of Lords (i) were successful and (ii) resulted in an order for costs being made against English Nature; and what costs were awarded in each case. [146956]

Jonathan Shaw: There were no judicial reviews brought against English Nature between 1997 and 2007 in the High Court, Court of Appeal or the House of Lords.

Farms: Land Drainage

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory duties relating to surface water drainage are placed upon farmers. [148335]

Mr. Woolas: There are no such statutory duties placed upon farmers with regard to surface water drainage.

Landowners with frontages along a watercourse have a number of rights and responsibilities in relation to watercourses which flow through their land. These include a responsibility to ensure that water flows without obstruction through their land.

Fisheries: Conservation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Belgian, *(b)* Dutch, *(c)* German, *(d)* Norwegian and *(e)* Danish counterparts on the management of fishing stocks in the North Sea. [147004]

Jonathan Shaw: UK Fisheries Ministers have regular discussions with their EU partners at Agriculture and Fisheries Council on matters relating to the management of stocks in the North sea. Occasional meetings also take place with Norwegian Ministers on areas of mutual interest.

Fly Tipping: South Eastern Region

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority in the South East of England in each of the last four years for which figures are available; what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; and how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority in the South East of England in each year for which figures are available. [147094]

Jonathan Shaw: As it is quite lengthy, I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Ivory: Trade

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking on the international trade of ivory; and what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the *(a)* Chadian, *(b)* Kenyan and *(c)* Indian governments on the matter. [147142]

Joan Ruddock: The UK continues to take very seriously the threat to elephant conservation posed by ivory poaching. In recent years the UK, along with EU partners, has supported the establishment of baseline data to monitor illegal killing and trade in elephants and their ivory by providing funds to support the MIKE and ETIS programmes under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). During the preparations for the 55th CITES Standing Committee on 2 June 2007, where approval of the stockpile sale was agreed in line with previously set criteria, the UK played an active role in considering the evidence.

At the subsequent 14th Convention of the Parties to CITES which took place in the Hague in June, a longer term agreement was reached among African range states on ivory trade. Following a one-off sale of an amount of stockpiled ivory increased to take account of the passage of time, the proceeds of which are to be used for conservation purposes, it is now agreed that there will be a nine year resting period on any further sales of ivory. This will allow the effects of the one-off stockpile sale to be properly assessed. The agreement also includes the establishment of an African elephant Trust Fund to address elephant conservation issues across the continent. The UK fully supported this proposal when it was presented to the CITES Parties, and will be looking to monitor the reported impacts of the stockpiled ivory sales, and broader elephant conservation measures, particularly in its newly elected position as a member of the CITES Standing Committee.

There have been no bi-lateral meetings at a Ministerial level with Chad, Kenya or India specifically on this issue although my predecessor spoke to Julius Kipng'etich (the Head of the Kenyan Wildlife Services) and Prof. Kivutha Kibwana (the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources) in the margins of the Ministerial event at the Conference in June to assure them of our support for elephant conservation and to agree to meet later in the year to discuss this further.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has made for the safe disposal of mercury-containing energy-efficient light bulbs when the changeover from filament bulbs occurs in 2009; [148374]

(2) what provisions he has made to encourage householders to dispose of energy efficient light bulbs in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner. [148375]

Joan Ruddock: In the UK, we have agreed an ambition with manufacturers and retailers to phase out the sale of inefficient light bulbs by 2011. The UK will be one of the first European countries to remove inefficient bulbs from stores; saving approximately 1.2 million tonnes of carbon by 2012, as well as saving consumers money on their energy bills. We also continue to support the European Commission in working towards regulating against inefficient bulbs by 2010, with a phase out over the following years.

There is no requirement for waste energy efficient light bulbs to be separately collected from households. However, since 1 July, energy efficient light bulbs have been required to be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. Householders will be able to take waste energy efficient light bulbs to designated collection facilities, in the main local authority civic amenity sites. From this point, producers will be financially responsible for their onward collection, treatment and recycling, where most of the mercury can be recovered.

Retailers have obligations under the WEEE Regulations to provide consumers with information on:

(i) the collection and take-back systems available to them;

(ii) their role in contributing to the reuse and recycling of WEEE;

(iii) and the potential effects on the environment and human health as a result of the presence of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

Under the WEEE Permitting Regulations, mercury must be removed from energy efficient light-bulbs where they are collected separately. A minimum of 80 per cent. by weight of the materials must be recycled or recovered.

Energy efficient light bulbs contain a small amount of mercury (less than 5 milligrams per lamp) and should be disposed of responsibly. There is increasing evidence that the mercury in each energy efficient bulb is considerably outweighed by the mercury put into the atmosphere through the additional electricity generation required to operate a traditional bulb.

Nappies

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the revised life cycle assessment (LCA) for disposable and reusable nappies in the UK will be published; and what plans his Department has for publicising the revised LCA on nappies. [146504]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency expects to publish a further report on nappies by the end of the year. This study is part of the Agency's science programme and will be published on their website in the same way as other scientific reports. Any further publicity will be considered jointly with DEFRA and the Waste and Resources Action Programme, who are jointly funding the study.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if his Department will reassess the adequacy of financial support for the promotion of reusable nappies following the conclusion of the revised life cycle assessment; [147206]

(2) what progress has been made in setting up a stand-alone organisation to take over running of WRAP's Real Nappy Campaign; and what financial contribution his Department will provide to it. [147207]

Joan Ruddock: The Real Nappy Programme budget for the April 2003 to March 2006 period was £2.3 million, with some funding continuing in 2006-07 to allow the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to meet existing commitments. No further direct funding is planned over 2007-08.

WRAP intends to hand over the work on real nappies to other interested parties during the course of this financial year. WRAP is currently discussing with a range of interested parties the possible arrangements for the future management of the Real Nappy Programme. Once WRAP has established the options, including funding needs, for taking forward this work, it will discuss them with DEFRA. It is, therefore, not yet possible to state DEFRA's future financial contribution, if any, to the Real Nappy Programme.

Pollution: Liverpool Bay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total tonnage of sewage sludge was dumped in Liverpool Bay in each of the last 30 years; what assessment he has made of the long-term impact of sewage sludge dumping on the marine environment; and if he will make a statement. [146896]

Jonathan Shaw: My predecessor's reply to the hon. Member's similar question on 20 November 2003, *Official Report*, 1230W, estimated that a total of 40-50 million tonnes of sewage sludge was deposited by water companies, and predecessor water authorities, in the north east Irish Sea/Liverpool Bay in the 30 years up to 31 December 1998. This practice was banned after that date.

The following table sets out the readily available information (1976 to 1998) on the annual quantities (tonnes) of sewage sludge disposed of in Liverpool Bay.

	Wet weight (tonnes)
1976	1,587,615
1977	1,753,633
1978	1,646,097
1979	1,357,645
1980	1,759,883
1981	1,692,680
1982	1,642,410
1983	1,299,200
1984	1,282,800
1985	1,487,595
1986	1,541,456
1987	1,626,036
1988	1,629,123
1989	1,645,609
1990	1,735,805
1991	1,879,500
1992	1,901,447
1993	1,983,241
1994	1,955,551
1995	2,012,667

	Wet weight (tonnes)
1996	1,934,356
1997	1,874,975
1998	1,218,289

Monitoring of the historic sewage sludge disposal site in Liverpool Bay has continued since the end of disposal in 1998 under the auspices of the National Marine Monitoring Program, now the Clean Seas Environment Monitoring Program. I understand the disposal of sewage sludge in Liverpool Bay has appeared to have very little effect on the receiving marine benthic environment of the area.

A reduction in marine invertebrate community variability was observed during disposal activities and an increase in variability after the end of the activity. When reference and disposal site sediment samples were compared no statistical differences in sediment characteristics were identified.

Tin: Irish Sea

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of tribulyte tin from the bulk of ships on the marine environment in the Irish Sea; [146890]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the impact of nutrients discharged by rivers on *(a)* estuaries, *(b)* beaches adjacent to estuaries and *(c)* the Irish Sea; [146892]

(3) what pollution incidents involving more than 0.01 tonnes of spillage occurred in the Irish Sea in each year since 2003; on what date each occurred; what the size was of the spillage; and which company *(a)* reported and *(b)* was responsible for each; [146893]

(4) what the cost was of monitoring pollution levels in the Irish Sea in each of the last 30 years; [146895]

(5) which *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory bodies monitored pollution levels in the Irish Sea in each of the last 30 years; [146897]

(6) what assessment he has made of the effect of polychlorinated biophenyls on the marine environment in the Irish Sea over the last 30 years; [146898]

(7) if he will make a statement on the recent co-operation between the UK Government and the Irish Government on monitoring pollution in the Irish Sea; [146899]

(8) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Jonus project in environmental monitoring; [147223]

(9) what level of funding has been given to the Jonus project in each year of its existence; [146908]

(10) what estimate he has made of the quantities of *(a)* synthetic chemicals, *(b)* mercury, *(c)* cadmium, *(d)* lead, *(e)* zinc, *(f)* nickel and *(g)* arsenic released into the Irish Sea from establishments in the UK in each of the last 30 years; what recent changes there have been in the reduction targets in each case; and if he will make a statement. [146906]

Jonathan Shaw: England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic will all have their specific mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on pollution in the Irish sea.

The main joint working on the state of the Irish sea is carried out within the framework of the Oslo and Paris (OSPAR) Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic to which the UK and the Republic of Ireland are contracting parties, where regular assessments are done, information gathered by the various organisations is brought together and assessments are made and published in the OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR). The last QSR was published in the year 2000, and included a regional report on the Celtic seas. The next QSR will be published in 2010.

The UK has also recently published "Charting Progress" which provides the first integrated assessment of the state of the seas across the whole of the UK continental shelf. "Charting Progress" includes a feeder report on Marine Environment Quality which focuses on the impacts of human activities on the marine environment and its resources, and provides assessments of the status and trends based on current knowledge and information. Much of the information given below is derived from the OSPAR QSR and "Charting Progress".

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), together with colleagues in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland and the Fisheries Researeh Services in Scotland have carried out studies on the effects of tributyl tin (TBT) on dogwhelks in the seas around the UK, including the Irish sea. The results, based on surveys between 1994 and 2003, show that effects on reproduction only appear to be significant within a few hundred metres from point source discharges of TBT.

Regarding the impacts of nutrients, the UK completed an Assessment of the Eutrophication Status of UK Marine Waters in 2002 which found that the only eutrophication problem areas in the Irish sea were (a) the Inner Belfast Lough and tidal Lagan impoundment, and (b) Quoile Pondage in Strangford Lough. A further eutrophication assessment of UK marine waters, which is based on observations made between 2000 and 2005 and includes estuaries, is under way and will be published in 2008. The Environment Agency also monitors the eutrophication status of surface waters under the nitrates and urban wastewater treatment directives.

With regards to pollution incidents involving more than 0.01 tonnes of spillage which have occurred in the Irish sea, the Environment Agency's pollution incident database shows that there were 237 recorded incidents on or close to the Irish sea coast between 2004 and 2006. These cover a range of incident types and severities. Not all of these spillages or releases will have entered the waters of the Irish sea.

The monitoring of pollution in the Irish sea is carried out by a number of organisations in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Funds are generally allocated on a national basis and it is not possible to distinguish the specific amount of money allocated to monitoring pollution levels in the Irish sea.

The UK statutory bodies which monitor or fund the monitoring of pollution levels in UK marine waters are as follows: Defra, the Department of the Environment Northern Ireland, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive, the Fisheries Research Services in Scotland, the Environment Agency, the Scottish

Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland, the Department for Transport, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Marine Coastguard Agency. Most of these will deal with some aspects of monitoring in the Irish sea.

A number of non-statutory bodies will also monitor pollution levels in the Irish sea, including marine institutes, universities, industries, and non-governmental organisations, but Defra does not hold records on this.

We are not aware of any recent assessments of specific direct effects of polychlorinated biphenyls (CBs) on the marine environment in the Irish sea. However, CB concentrations in sediments were measured at a number of sites around the UK between 1999 and 2002, with a number of samples in estuaries exceeding the ecotoxicological assessment criteria for CBs. Work is continuing on possible effects on marine mammals.

The UK Government cooperate with the Irish Government in the framework of the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic through participation in its Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme. Regular joint assessments of the status of the various regions of the North East Atlantic are made and, in the year 2000, a Quality Status Report (QSR) on the Celtic seas was published by OSPAR, which involved sustained contact between officials and scientists from all countries bordering the Celtic seas in providing the various assessments. Preparations are under way for the next QSR in 2010, and the cooperation continues.

The Joint Nutrient Study (Jonus) was a research programme carried out in the 1990s, which ended in 1999. The first phase of the programme established the extent of loss of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and silicon) from the water that passes through estuaries from the land to the sea. The programme established some general rules that could be applied in nutrient budgeting and how this knowledge could be used in the management of marine eutrophication. The second phase of the programme compared two sea areas in terms of the impact on aspects of marine biology associated with land based nutrient input. The programme established a basis for further understanding the need to manage nutrient inputs and the criteria that could be used to distinguish any undesirable disturbance resulting from anthropogenic nutrient enrichment. This knowledge has been deployed in support of assessments under the relevant EC directives and for the OSPAR Convention.

Information help by Defra on the funding for the JONUS programme (Joint Assessment of Nutrients Study) shows that between 1990 and 1995, for JONUS1, there were two main funding components with the Department of the Environment (DoE)/ Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions (Detr) contributing approximately £0.5 million a year and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) contributing about £0.6 million a year. JONUS2 took place between 1996 and 1999. The broad levels of funding for each year were £0.8 million, £0.95 million and £0.25 million respectively.

Information on UK loads of lindane, mercury, cadmium, lead, zinc, lindane and PCBs is held centrally only for the period 1990 to 2005 and is reported to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic. Defra does not hold information on loads of nickel and arsenic.

Between 1990 and 2005, the estimated riverine and direct loads of cadmium, mercury, lead, zinc, lindane and PCB to the Irish sea (based on an average of the upper and lower values reported) reduced as shown in the following table. The figures include both naturally occurring sources of the metals and anthropogenic releases from point and diffuse sources.

	1990	*2005*
Cd (tonne)	27.84	1.48
Hg (tonne)	4.56	0.29
Pb (tonne)	81.26	67.22
Zn (tonne)	754.95	403.27
g-HCH (kg)	33.09	10.93
PCB (kg)	75.95	26.00

Urban Areas: Land Drainage

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* researching and *(b)* implementing sustainable urban drainage systems in each year since 2000. [148337]

Mr. Woolas: Since 2000, the Department has funded research relating to sustainable drainage systems as follows:

	£
2005-06	12,000
2006-07	35,000
2007-08-2009	20,000

In addition, DEFRA is funding 15 pilot projects across England looking at integrated urban drainage issues in a broader context. Several of these include consideration of issues relating to sustainable drainage systems. The total project value is £1.7 million.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department has given on the content of core strategies for waste disposal and waste treatment. [146785]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Waste Strategy for England 2007, published on 24 May, sets out a range of measures to achieve the key objectives of less waste, more recycling and recovery of energy from waste and better treatment of residual waste. The strategy and its annexes contain a wealth of information and advice that should inform the development of more local strategies on waste—by organisations in both the public and private sectors. The strategy is available at www.defra.gov.uk/waste/strategy and in the Library of House.

The Government expects all local authorities to have in place a fit for purpose and up-to-date Municipal Waste Management Strategy. In some two-tier areas this is a statutory requirement. Local authorities can be exempt from this requirement where they have met their recycling targets and obligations under the

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), or for achieving an excellent or four star rating in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The Government have published two guidance documents to assist local authorities, setting out what Government expect strategies to contain and providing advice on the production of a strategy. Both documents are available from the waste pages of the Defra website.

Advice and support on business resource efficiency, including on reducing waste and recovering value from waste that is produced, is provided through the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme. This programme funds organisations such as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Environment Agency, Envirowise, National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) and Business Links to support businesses in effectively reducing and managing their waste.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department will be taking to reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted by 29 per cent. by 2010 as set out in the Revised Waste Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [146505]

Joan Ruddock: "Waste Strategy for England 2007", published on 24 May 2007 sets out a number of measures which will support the achievement of this target.

Examples of measures in the strategy that will drive waste reduction include:

(i) a consultation on proposals to remove the ban on local authorities introducing financial schemes to incentivise households waste reduction and recycling; and

(ii) establishing material and sector-based voluntary agreements with businesses, such as the agreement with the Direct Marketing Association to develop an opt-out for unaddressed direct mail to reduce the amount of unwanted direct mail.

Examples of measures that will increase the amount of waste re-used, recycled and composted include:

(i) reducing single use shopping bags through a retailer commitment to a programme of action to reduce the environmental impact of carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008;

(ii) extending national information and awareness campaigns to promote waste reduction and re-use measures; and

(iii) continued support for the Waste and Resources Action Programme's home composting scheme, which will distribute a further one million supported compost bins by 2008 alongside engagement with householders to promote the on-going use of their compost bins.

These, and other measures set out in the strategy, will collectively help to achieve the target of a 29 per cent. reduction in the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted by 2010 in England.

Further details on these measures are available in the strategy which is available on the Defra website and in the Library of the House.

Whales: Conservation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of the 59th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission. [146218]

Jonathan Shaw: At this year's annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UK and other anti-whaling countries were able to sponsor and secure several key resolutions: calling on Japan to halt its lethal "scientific" research programme; promoting the non-lethal use of cetaceans; and reaffirming the continued need for the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. This last resolution subsequently served us well in the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, enabling us to defeat proposals aimed at eventually allowing trade in whale products to take place.

My hon. Friends and ministerial predecessors, the hon. Members for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) and for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) respectively, have recently jointly written to all hon. Members to inform them about the outcome of this year's IWC meeting.

Wildlife: Trade

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide funding for the workshop on wildlife trade on the internet to be established following the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [146497]

Joan Ruddock: The UK presented the proposal to convene a workshop to look at the scope of the problem of wildlife trade on the internet at the recent CITES Conference of Parties. The proposal was adopted by consensus by CITES Parties. DEFRA also announced at the Conference that it would be providing £15,000 towards the cost of organising the workshop once the initial data-gathering exercise on the scale of the problem of illegal trade on the internet has been completed.

Wood: Procurement

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to bring forward measures to require timber procured for use in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector to come from sustainable sources. [148127]

Joan Ruddock: Central Departments in England are already required to seek to purchase timber and timber products that derive from legally harvested trees grown in sustainably managed forests. They are advised to do this by making the supply of legally harvested timber a condition of contract and by giving preference to sustainably produced timber if offered. From April 2009 Departments will be required to demand that timber from sustainably managed forests or timber licensed under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade scheme only be supplied. From April 2015 Departments will be required to demand that timber from sustainably managed forests only is supplied.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will continue to promote responsible timber

procurement to the wider public sector and to the private sector at home and abroad whenever suitable opportunities arise.

WALES

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last year to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147318]

Mr. Hain: No Wales Office staff are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions, but a small number of staff are buying added years through deductions from pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the education maintenance allowance on recruitment to work-based learning programmes; and if he will make a statement. [147837]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Learning and Skills Council has commissioned a review of the effect of the extension of education maintenance allowance to work-based learning programmes through the Association of Learning Providers. The objectives of the review were to liaise with learning providers and key partners in the regions to identify key issues, areas of good practice and how these can be expanded to national level.

The review identified that although starts on the Entry to Employment (E2E) programme were down nationally at the beginning of the 2006-07 year in comparison to the same period in 2005-06, these have now recovered and recruitment is in line with 2006-07 projections,

A series of dissemination events took place to share good practice with the work-based learning provider network. The Learning and Skills Council will be undertaking an evaluation of the first year of extension of education maintenance allowance to young people in non-employed work-based learning and a full report is expected to be available in January 2008.

Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1823W, on nanotechnology, what the split is between specialist and directed (managed programmes) nanotechnology funding and responsive mode nanotechnology funding within the research councils. [147470]

Mr. Denham: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) commits on average £30-35 million each year on nanotechnology in responsive mode, and in 2006-07 EPSRC supported £5.5 million of managed activity focused on nanotechnology.

The National Environment Research Council (NERC) currently supports grants on nanotechnology worth approximately £0.5 million from responsive mode and approximately £1 million through two separate directed programmes: the environmental nanoscience initiative (jointly funded by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the national environmental research (NERC) and the environment and human health programme—jointly funded from NERC; the Medical Research Council (MRC); Wellcome Trust; the Economic and Social Research Council; the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), EPSRC, MoD, DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

In 2005-06, the BBSRC spent £3.328 million on nanotechnology through responsive mode and £1.039 million via directed initiatives. In addition, BBSRC funds research into the six nanotechnology application areas electronics, communications and informatics; drug delivery systems; instrumentation, tooling and metrology; novel materials; sensors and actuators; tissue engineering, medical implants and devices. Expenditure on these applications in 2005-06 was £8.868 million via responsive mode and £5.331 million via directed initiatives. BBSRC also funds nanotechnology and related research via core strategic grants to institutes and through studentships, to a value of £4.817 million in 2005-06.

All Medical Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council funding for nanotechnology has been in responsive mode.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department classifies responsive mode nanotechnology funding in the same category as direct nanotechnology funding. [147471]

Mr. Denham: The research councils are responsible for determining the classification of their funding into various categories, including the distribution between responsive mode and directed/managed funding. The technology programme funding is through directed/managed programmes.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many long-term grants for nanotechnology of *(a)* over four years duration and *(b)* over £5 million in value the Government has funded in the last 10 years. [147472]

Mr. Denham: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has funded seven grants over four years in duration. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has funded 17 nanotechnology or related grants in the last three years, which have a duration of more than four years. It has also funded 12 institute core strategic grants projects with spend in four or more years on nanotechnology or related research. The Medical Research Council funds four long-term programmes of research in its institutes on nanotechnology. The technology programme has funded 18 nanotechnology grants of over four years duration.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council has funded seven nanotechnology grants worth over £5 million, and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has funded one large nanotechnology-related grant over £5 million value in the last three years. The technology programme has funded two grants over £5 million.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the £100 million invested in nanotechnology on collaborative research and development since 2005 was associated with *(a)* nanotechnologies and *(b)* micro-technologies. [147473]

Mr. Denham: The Technology Strategy Board micronano technology initiative has invested under two themes:

A portfolio of 56 collaborative research and development projects, broadly divided into 30 micro technology projects and 26 nanotechnology projects (although some have a cross-shared interest). The approximate division of support is £16.4 million (against £333 million project costs) for micro technology and £14 million (against £32 million project costs) for nanotechnology; and

The network of 24 UK based micro/nano technology centres with a total budget of £54 million where all of the centres address both micro and nano technology.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of responsive mode funding for nanotechnology research on the research base; [147749]

(2) what benchmarking he has conducted of non-responsive mode funding streams for nanotechnology research in the UK against other countries in each of the last 10 years. [147750]

Mr. Denham: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) undertook an analysis of the nanotechnology research base at its nanotechnology theme day in 2005. This led to the development of the EPSRC nanotechnology strategy. The theme day report is available on the EPSRC website,

http://www.epsrc.ac.uk.

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) Tools and Resources Strategy Panel is responsible for the BBSRCs strategy for bionanotechnology. It considered BBSRC's remit and investment in this area in December 2004. BBSRC has also contributed to development of the EPSRC nanotechnology strategy. In 2007, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) published a report on "Nanotechnology: from the science to the social" which presents an overview of the research landscape (available on ESRC website at http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/).

The Taylor report commissioned by Lord Sainsbury in his capacity as Science Minister reviewed other countries' expenditure. Following the publication of that report officials undertook a series of visits to micro and nanotechnology centres of excellence and businesses in the US and Europe between 200land 2003 to investigate the range of funding mechanisms used. As a result the micro and nanotechnology manufacturing initiative was launched in February 2004.

Schools: City Academies

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what role his Department will play in helping the Government to meet their targets on creating trust schools and academies. [147739]

Mr. Denham: A number of universities and colleges are already working with academies and trust schools. The Department is looking forward to working with the Department of Children, Schools and Families to raise awareness among universities and colleges of the opportunities to work with trust schools and academies, and the benefits that school partnerships can bring to both schools and their partners.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations he has received on raising the cap on university top-up fees. [147738]

Bill Rammell: A number of views about the future of tuition fees and the financing of universities have been expressed to the Government. We promised at the time of the 2004 legislation that the fee cap would not be lifted in real terms until an independent commission had examined evidence from the first three years of the new fees regime. That remains the case. Draft terms of reference for the commission were published in January 2004.

Students: Loans

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum student loan was in (i) Cornwall, (ii) the south-west and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [147506]

Bill Rammell: The available data are given in the following table.

Students domiciled in Cornwall local authority, the south-west Government office region, and England, academic years 1999-2000 to 2005-06

	Average value of income-contingent loan (£)		
Academic year[1]	*Cornwall local authority*	*South-west Government office region*	*England*
1999-2000	3,350	3,240	3,180
2000-01	3,290	3,190	3,160
2001-02	3,350	3,250	3,190
2002-03	3,410	3,290	3,240
2003-04	3,370	3,330	3,310
2004-05	3,400	3,390	3,390
2005-06[2]	3,440	3,450	3,470

[1] Data are not available prior to 1999-2000.
[2] Provisional.
Note:
1. Figures are for students domiciled in the area shown, and are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Student Loans Company

The maximum amount of maintenance loan to which a student is entitled is dependent upon where they are living during their study, rather than their domicile, The rates are given in the following table:

Maximum student loans for maintenance in 2006-07

		£
Location of study	*Full year rates*	*Final year rates*[1]
Students living away from their parents' home and studying in London	Up to 6,170	Up to 5,620
Students living away from their parents' home and studying elsewhere	Up to 4,405	Up to 4,080
Students living at their parents' home (London and elsewhere)	Up to 3,415	Up to 3,085

[1] The amounts of loan are lower in the final year as students leave higher education at the end of the summer and will not need financial support over the summer holiday.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government expect the average debt to be of university students graduating in each of the next five years. [147522]

Bill Rammell: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004-05, published on 30 March 2006, is a comprehensive study on students' income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. It showed that English domiciled full-time students graduating in the academic year 2004-05 anticipated, on average, a total debt of £7,918. For those commencing courses after the introduction of variable fees in the 2008-07 academic year we expect average student debt of around £15,000.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university students received student loans in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Cornwall in each year since 1997. [147541]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The available data are given in the table.

Numbers of students in receipt of an income-contingent student loan[1]*—Students domiciled in England, the South West Government office region, and Cornwall local authority, academic years 1999/2000 to 2005/06*

			Thousand
Academic year	*England*	*South West Government office region*	*Cornwall local authority*
1999/2000[2]	368	38	4
2000/01	536	56	6
2001/02	629	65	7
2002/03	666	68	7
2003/04	682	76	8
2004/05	693	75	8
2005/06[3]	719	78	8

[1] Figures include all students in receipt of an income-contingent maintenance loan in thousands and are rounded to the nearest 1,000 students. [2] Data are not available prior to 1999/2000. [3] Provisional.
Source: Student Loans Company.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what plans he has to expand the number of businesses making the Skills Pledge in relation to Train to Gain; whether there is a minimum standard of training for such businesses; and if he will make a statement; [147789]

(2) what proportion of businesses making the Skills Pledge employ fewer than *(a)* 20 and *(b)* 500 people; [147790]

(3) what web-based tools are provided by the Government to employers making the Skills Pledge. [147792]

Bill Rammell: On 14 June the Government launched the Skills Pledge with commitments from 157 employers with more than 1.7 million employees. Since the launch, businesses have continued to register their interest in the Skills Pledge through the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Train to Gain website and helpline. The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the operational aspects of the Skills Pledge, including the size and location of every employer making a skills pledge. I have asked Mark Haysom to write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Every employer that makes a skills pledge is given access to a skills broker who will work with them to ensure that they better understand the skills needs of their business and to help them source the highest quality provider to meet those needs. As part of our ongoing drive on quality the Government launched, in June, a new standard for employer responsiveness and vocational excellence in providers. The new standard will be an improvement tool for providers and will offer employers a single employer-verified badge to look for when sourcing workforce development provision. This will help employers to get best value for money from their investment in training by both reducing the time taken to source the highest quality provision and improving the quality of provision overall.

The Government continue to develop new and innovative web based tools to support employers in all their business aspects. There is already a web based registration process for employers to register their details and the LSG are currently reviewing a range of

diagnostic tools with a view to posting or referencing these on the Skills Pledge website. Skills Brokers, as part of their business analysis, will help employers find e-tools that will enable them to help themselves, including Investors in People interactive— a web based tool provided through our support for Investors in People which will be available from November 2007 and the Business Performance Diagnostic which is available through Business Link. In line with the Government's e-strategy we shall continue to develop further tools where employers tell us there is a real demand.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training and qualifications skills brokers in the Train to Gain scheme must have. [147791]

Bill Rammell: Train to Gain is a new service that reached national coverage in August 2006 and is a critical part of the drive to make this country's skills world class. Skills brokers are contracted for and performance managed by the Learning and Skills Council. It is a contractual requirement that, within 12 months of their appointment, every skills broker meets the new independently assessed City and Guilds accredited skills broker standard as part of the Business Support Profession.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

City Academies

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his targets for academies are on *(a)* the total number of (i) institutions and (ii) pupil places and *(b)* geographical distribution. [147742]

Jim Knight: The Government are firmly committed to establishing 400 academies. There are no pre-determined targets relating to pupil places or their geographical distribution. The academies programme targets areas of inadequate educational attainment. Some academies are brand new schools in areas which need the extra places but most academies replace weak or under-performing schools. Academies will be established in areas where the need is greatest and we expect that this will produce a wide geographical distribution.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies he expects to be opened in each of the next five years. [147743]

Jim Knight: There are now 47 open academies. By September 2007 we expect there to be 82 open academies, and a further 50 are projected to open in September 2008. The number of academies that open in subsequent years will depend on the final allocation of the Department's comprehensive spending review settlement.

Departments: Buildings

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which buildings his Department occupies; and which buildings were occupied by the Department for Education and Skills on 26 June 2007. [147809]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families occupies the following five buildings:

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith street, London;

Caxton House, Tothill street, London;

Moorfoot, Sheffield;

Castle View House, Runcorn;

Mowden Hall, Darlington.

The same five buildings were also occupied by the Department for Education and Skills on the 26 of June 2007.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of creating signs displaying his Department's name for ministerial offices. [147808]

Kevin Brennan: There are no signs displaying the Department's name on ministerial offices, and therefore no costs were incurred.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date a new sign for his building was commissioned. [147874]

Kevin Brennan: We commissioned a new sign for the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 28 June 2007.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on external consultancy fees involved in the *(a)* relocation and *(b)* re-branding of his Department, broken down by (i) company involved and (ii) services provided since 26 June. [147875]

Kevin Brennan: There was no spend on consultancy relating to relocation or re-branding.

Departments: Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers or officials from his Department attended the meeting of the National Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group on 27 June; what steps his Department is taking following the meeting; whether he expects to attend the next meeting; and if he will make a statement. [148110]

Kevin Brennan: The Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group is chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers and is primarily supported by Government through the Home Office. DCSF officials attend by invitation, and one of my officials attended the last meeting on 27 June. Officials will continue to attend future meetings, reporting back to me through the usual management channels.

At the June meeting, provisional recommendations from our joint work with The Children's Society on

young runaways were discussed. We expect to be discussing these further with The Children's Society over the weeks to come, along with any other options for further action that the report presents.

Education: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which responsibilities of the former Department for Education and Skills his Department holds; whether responsibilities have been transferred to his Department from any other department; and what (i) agencies and (ii) other bodies his Department is responsible for. [147748]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member for Havant to:

the Prime Minister's written ministerial statement of 28 June 2007, Machinery of Government—Departmental Organisation; and

the document, 'Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation', available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/government_changes/index.asp.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Portacabin classrooms are in use in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority area in England. [147815]

Jim Knight: Temporary buildings data supplied to my Department by local authorities do not show the names of manufacturers.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Modern, high quality mobile or demountable buildings provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is short-term need. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short-term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to set a target for clearing repairs to school buildings identified as required but unfunded in the Asset Management Planning data collected from local education authorities in 2005. [148139]

Jim Knight: Together with any backlog maintenance, the asset management planning condition data supplied to the Department by local education authorities show future requirements over a five-year period. The backlog component is not specifically identified, but it is estimated that future requirements account for the majority of the costs shown in the data. All buildings suffer dilapidation and maintenance is regularly needed to counter this. It is not viable to eliminate future maintenance requirements, but the backlog is being tackled and the cost of urgent work has reduced by approximately 30 per cent. against the data received in 2001.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. The bulk of schools capital is allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including maintenance. While reducing maintenance requirements is a long-term aim, the primary objectives for funding are to raise educational standards and tackle local deprivation. A substantial proportion of capital funding is targeted at transformational programmes, such as Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programmes. Over time, these programmes will significantly reduce future maintenance requirements.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with Essex local education authority on secondary education provision in Colchester constituency; and if he will make a statement. [147863]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Senior officials from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) including the Schools Commissioner, have met officers from Essex county council to discuss, among other issues, secondary school provision in Colchester. There is continuing concern about standards at Alderman Blaxill School, Sir Charles Lucas Arts College and The Thomas Lord Audley School and Language College, all of which are currently in special measures.

DCSF officials and council officers are therefore urgently considering plans for improvement at all these schools. The Department will also work with the local authority on its future strategy for secondary provision in the area, including objectives of securing greater diversity of provision associated with school rebuilding under the Building Schools for the Future programme

TREASURY

Agriculture: Taxation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the financial value was to the agricultural industry of the agricultural building tax relief in the years between 2000 and 2006. [147984]

Angela Eagle: The corporation tax benefit of agricultural buildings allowances is estimated to have been £5 million in 2002, £6 million in 2003, £7 million in 2004 and £6 million in 2005. Figures for other years are not available.

The corresponding figures for unincorporated businesses cannot be reliably estimated separately from industrial buildings allowances.

Average Earnings

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the percentage of average earnings growth in each month of financial year 2006-07 which was attributable to bonuses. [148561]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the percentage of average earnings growth in each month of the financial year 2006-07 which was attributable to bonuses. I am replying in her absence. (148561)

The information you have requested is not available from the systems used to compile the Average Earnings Index. However, it is possible to see the effect of bonuses by comparing the growth rates for the two series 'Average Earnings—including bonuses' and 'Average Earnings—excluding bonuses' published in Tables 15 and 16 respectively of the Labour Market Statistics First Release. The information is presented below for convenience.

Note that in March 2007 the growth rate for the including bonus series showed lower growth than the growth rate for the excluding bonus series. This means that in March bonuses were growing at a lower rate than regular pay.

Year on year percentage growth rates (seasonally adjusted)

	Average earnings including bonuses	*Average earnings excluding bonuses*
2006		
April	4.0	3.7
May	4.4	3.9
June	4.9	4.0
July	3.9	3.3
August	3.8	3.6
September	4.1	3.7
October	4.2	3.9
November	4.0	3.6
December	3.9	3.6
2007		
January	4.6	3.5
February	5.2	3.6
March	3.5	3.7

Bacterial Diseases: Death

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many deaths *(a) clostridium difficile, (b)* MRSA and *(c)* acinetobacter has been reported as (i) contributing to and (ii) causing death. [148479]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many deaths (a) clostridium difficile, (b) MRSA and (c) acinetobactor has (i) been reported as contributing to and (ii) causing death. I am replying in her absence. (148479)

Special analyses of deaths involving MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. These are published annually in Health Statistics Quarterly.

The latest year for which such figures are available is 2005. These data were released in "Health Statistics Quarterly 33" which is available in the House of Commons library and on the National Statistics website.[1,2,3] These reports contain tables of the number of deaths where MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* were reported as the underlying cause of death or were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

There are no routine statistics on deaths involving the gram negative bacterium acinetobacter. Doctors completing death certificates are asked to state the diseases, for example pneumonia, meningitis or septicaemia, which caused or contributed to death. They sometimes specify the micro-organism responsible for such infectious diseases, for example meningococcus, streptococcus pneumoniae etc, but are not required to do so. Indeed, they may not know the organism responsible when certifying the death, or there may be more than one. In addition, causes of death are classified using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). As its name implies, this is a classification of diseases not micro-organisms.

It includes codes for only a limited range of common pathogens. There is no code in any revision of the ICD for acinetobacter.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2007) Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-05. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 71-75.

[2] Office for National Statistics (2007) Report: Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2001-05. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 76-81.

[3] http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725

Bank Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* 0 to 18, *(b)* 18 to 24, *(c)* 25 to 50, *(d)* 50 to 65, *(e)* 66 to 84 and *(f)* 85 years and over held current bank accounts in each region covered by the regional development agencies at the latest date for which figures are available. [148073]

Kitty Ussher: The most recent data available that allows assessment to be made of levels of bank account holding is the Family Resources Survey from 2005-06. The information in the survey is at household level, not individual level.

This data is broken down to Government office regional level and age of the household reference person (the owner of the household property, or the household member with the highest income).

Households (Thousand) rounded to the nearest 10,000

	Age of household reference person				
Government office region	*Under 25*	*25 to 49*	*50 to 64*	*65 to 84*	*85 and over*[1]
North East	70	430	230	230	30
North West and Merseyside	180	1,260	690	590	70
Yorks and Humberside	140	850	480	420	40

Government office region	Households (Thousand) rounded to the nearest 10,000 — Age of household reference person: Under 25	25 to 49	50 to 64	65 to 84	85 and over[1]
East Midlands	100	670	390	330	40
West Midlands	130	900	480	450	60
Eastern	150	1,000	520	490	70
London	200	1,610	560	470	60
South East	200	1,460	800	710	110
South West	130	860	520	510	80
Wales	80	470	290	280	40
Scotland	150	950	480	440	50
Northern Ireland	30	280	140	100	10
All	1,580	10,750	5,590	5,030	650

[1] Small sample size.

Census: Carers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that the number of carers is counted in the 2011 Census. [148072]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking that the number of carers is counted in the 2011 Census. I am replying in her absence. (148072)

The inclusion of a question on carers on the 2011 Census is still being considered and the importance of the topic and the value of the data are recognised. Its inclusion is dependent upon space available on the census questionnaire and the requirements from statistics users for competing questions. Consultation on the content of the 2011 Census has identified demand for about six pages worth of questions per person. However, cost constraints and the burden on respondents are likely to limit space to three pages of questions per person and so there are difficult choices to be made.

The final decision on the content of the 2011 Census will ultimately be for Parliament to make.

Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* financial aid and *(b)* assistance was provided by the Government to each of Her Majesty's Crown dependencies in 2005-06. [145718]

Kitty Ussher: The Treasury itself made no such payments in 2005-06. In April 2006 it made a payment of some £585,000 to Jersey. This was a refund of Crown hereditary revenues that Jersey had previously paid into the Consolidated Fund. The refund of such receipts is a long-standing arrangement required by the Jersey and Guernsey (Financial Provisions) Act 1947. The Treasury has no knowledge of any payments to the Crown dependencies by other Government Departments.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147606]

Angela Eagle: The payments made by the Treasury to Common Purpose in each of the last five years were as follows:

	£
2002-03	4,230
2003-04	4,764
2004-05	3,525
2005-06	0
2006-07	8,166

The payments were for training courses and events. Records of the outcome of the expenditure are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148020]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has one completed PFI project which relates to the 1 Horse Guards Road building. There are no other projects commissioned or under way. Full details of the 1 Horse Guards Road PFI project have been included in the Treasury's resource accounts in each year since the project's inception in 2002-03. The Treasury's 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts, including the resource accounts, are available from http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/annual_report07.cfm. and the resource accounts for earlier years are available from www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/resourceaccounts/resourceaccounts_index.cfm. The 1 Horse Guards Road project is also included in the list of signed PFI deals at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm, which projects total unitary charge payments, including capital repayments and services, up until 2033-34. The projections for service costs are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor.

Employment: Mothers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers are in employment. [148462]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many mothers are in employment. I am replying in her absence. (148462)

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that in the three months ending June 2006, there were 4.84 million working-age mothers in employment who had dependent children. Dependent children are defined as children aged under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ICT: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the regional distribution was of software-related employment according to the Labour Force Survey *(a)* in 2001 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available. [148074]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about software-related employment by region, I am replying in her absence. (148074)

The attached table gives the numbers of people employed in software-related occupations by region for the three months ending December for both 2001 and 2006. For the purpose of this question, software related occupations have been defined as information and communication technology managers, IT strategy and planning professionals, software professionals, IT operations technicians, IT user support technicians, database assistants and clerks, computer engineers installation and maintenance. The data are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is particularly true for some 4-digit occupational codes given in the table.

People in software related occupations[1] by region, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	*Total in software related occupations*	*1136 Information and communication technology managers*	*2131 IT strategy and planning professionals*	*2132 Software professionals*	*3131 IT operations technicians*
2001					
United Kingdom	1,009	239	124	298	132
North East	23	3	2	7	4
North West	99	26	9	20	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	50	13	4	11	9
East Midlands	54	14	5	17	8
West Midlands	77	16	12	21	13
Eastern	113	24	14	37	13
London	202	52	27	60	21
South-east	208	51	31	67	18
South-west	83	16	11	31	12
Wales	21	4	2	6	3
Scotland	64	17	7	17	10
Northern Ireland	15	3	2—	5	1
2006					
United Kingdom	1,050	287	143	325	120
North East	24	5	3	7	3
North West	101	24	15	24	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	66	18	5	16	11
East Midlands	60	17	8	15	9
West Midlands	78	21	10	24	5
Eastern	110	30	15	37	13
London	192	54	31	65	17
South-east	229	74	35	73	17
South-west	89	19	11	30	11
Wales	21	6	2—	6	4
Scotland	66	16	8	22	8
Northern Ireland	14	2	2	5	2

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	*3132 IT user support technicians*	*4136 Database assistants and clerks*	*5245 Computer engineers installation and maintenance*
2001			
United Kingdom	69	102	46
North East	2	5	1
North West	6	15	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	5	6	2
East Midlands	4	5	1
West Midlands	4	9	3
Eastern	8	10	7

Three months ending December each year	3132 IT user support technicians	4136 Database assistants and clerks	Thousand 5245 Computer engineers installation and maintenance
London	14	19	9
South-east	14	19	8
South-west	5	4	4
Wales	1	4	2—
Scotland	5	5	3
Northern Ireland	1	1	3
2006			
United Kingdom	58	75	42
North East	1	3	2
North West	7	10	3
Yorkshire and Humberside	3	10	2
East Midlands	5	3	3
West Midlands	6	6	6
Eastern	4	6	5
London	10	7	7
South-east	9	12	6
South-west	5	8	5
Wales	2	2	2—
Scotland	3	7	2
Northern Ireland	2	2—	1

[1] Based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000.
[2] Sample sizes are too small to provide estimates.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer the letter to his predecessor of 11 May 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. A. Bange. [147547]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Overseas Aid

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what continuing financial commitments the UK has towards countries which gained independence from the British Empire. [147511]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Upon independence from the UK, financial (and all other) responsibility passed to the independent country's government.

Stamp Duties: Edinburgh

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised from residential stamp duty on properties within the City of Edinburgh local authority area in each year since 1997. [147719]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Estimates of amounts of stamp duty payable on residential transactions for 2005-06, broken down by each local authority, were deposited in the House of Commons Library last June.

Reliable information is not available for earlier years.

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties within the City of Edinburgh local authority area were subject to *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 3 per cent., and *(c)* 4 per cent. residential stamp duty in each year since 1997. [147722]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Estimates of the number of property transactions for local authorities are only available for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and are given in the following table for Edinburgh, grouped by stamp duty band.

Edinburgh					
	Property transactions attracting:				
	0 per cent. rate[1]	1 per cent. rate[2]	3 per cent. rate[3]	4 per cent. rate[4]	Total
2004-05	1,460	8,514	1,290	250	11,513
2005-06	5,182	5,658	1,509	331	12,680
2006-07	4,265	7,205	2,224	517	14,211

[1] Residential threshold was £60,000 in 2004-05, £120,000 in 2005-06 and £125,000 in 2006-07.
[2] £60,001—£250,000 range in 2004-05, £120,001—£250,000 in 2005-06, £125,001—£250,000 in 2006-07.
[3] £250,001 to £500,000.
[4] £500,001 or more.

The number of transactions bearing stamp duty will be lower than the number shown in the non-zero bands due to the use of various reliefs, e.g. disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief etc. There are also some lease transactions which fall in the 0 per cent. band on account of consideration, but which bear stamp duty on the lease rental.

Unemployment: North East Region

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working age workless households with couples without dependent children there were in the north east region in each year since 1992. [148209]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 9 July 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about workless couple households without dependent children in the North East region. I am replying in her absence. (148209)

The attached table gives the information requested. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), for the three month period ending in May of each year from 1992 to 2006.

A household is defined as a single person, or a group of people living at the same address who have the address as their only main residence and either share one main meal a day or share the living accommodation (or both). A workless working-age couple household is one that is headed by a married/cohabiting couple and that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment. Couple households without dependent children may include non- dependent children, and/or members of other family units, whose economic status affects the combined economic status of the household (i.e. whether it is classified as workless or not).

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Workless working-age couple households without dependent children[1] [2], [3]: north east region: spring (March-May) 1992 to 2006, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousands[4]	Per cent.[5]
1992	50	17.0
1993	58	19.7
1994	48	17.5
1995	50	13.1
1996	48	17.6
1997	51	19.1
1998	46	17.7
1999	53	21.3
2000	51	19.8
2001	47	19.3
2002	43	16.8
2003	40	15.9
2004	49	18.6
2005	48	19.5
2006	38	14.3

[1] A workless couple household is a household that is headed by a married/cohabiting couple and that includes at least one person of working age and in which no-one aged 16 or over is in employment. Couple households without dependent children may include non-dependent children, and/or members of other family units, whose economic status affects the combined economic status of the household (i.e. whether it is classified as workless or not).
[2] Working-age includes men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[4] Estimates have not been adjusted for households with unknown economic activity status.
[5] Workless working-age couple households without dependent children as a percentage of all working-age couple households without dependent children. Base for percentages excludes households with unknown economic activity status.
Note:
As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sample size was used for 2004-05 tax credit awards to check the level of tax credit fraud and error; and if he will make a statement. [147366]

Jane Kennedy: The sample size used by the HMRC random enquiry to check the level of tax credit error and fraud in 2004-05 is around 4,500.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W, on welfare tax credits: overpayments, from how many people who have been declared bankrupt the Tax Credit Office is claiming back tax credit overpayments in the format in which the information is available. [147462]

Jane Kennedy: Since May 2004 HM Revenue and Customs is aware of around 550 cases where claimants have notified the Department that they are bankrupt.

Information is not available for the number of claimants who have notified the Department they are bankrupt but are continuing to pay back an overpayment of tax credits.

If any claimant disputes HMRC's decision to recover an overpayment from them, then HMRC will suspend the recovery of the overpaid tax credits while the reasons for the dispute are looked into.

JUSTICE

Family Courts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the openness of proceedings in the family courts; and if he will take steps to increase access to such proceedings. [147718]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation paper "Confidence and confidentiality: Improving transparency and privacy in family courts" was published in July 2006. 245 formal responses were received to the consultation, and over

200 children and young people contributed their views. There was a material difference of opinion in the responses: the media supported the Government's proposal to allow the media into family courts as of right, but children and young people and the groups who support and protect them disagreed. However, children and young people said that they trust the court to make the decision on whether the media should be allowed to attend on a case by case basis. An overview of responses is available at:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/courttransparencyll06/response-cp1106.pdf

The Government therefore have taken a new approach to openness in family courts. Instead of increasing access into such proceedings, they have decided to increase the amount of information coming out of the court. In certain cases, information will be given to the people involved, it will be retained for people who were involved in family proceedings as children to help them understand how decisions were made about them, and it will be made available in an anonymous format for public scrutiny.

A further public consultation was published on 20 June which outlined this new approach, and also asked questions on changing the rules on disclosure of information and whether the identity of a child should be protected after the end of proceedings. The consultation closes on 1 October 2007. It is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp1007.htm

Family Law: Legal Aid Scheme

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 346W, on family law, legal aid scheme, how much of the legal aid bill for family law cases since 2005 can be attributed to contributions towards the costs of residential assessments in care proceedings. [147485]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the cost to legal aid of residential assessments in care proceedings is not recorded centrally. Further work is being done to isolate these costs through a review of closed files at the moment.

Graffiti: Prosecutions

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were made and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were issued by (i) each police force and (ii) each local authority for graffiti under the (A) Criminal Damage Act 1971, (B) Clean Neighbourhood and Environment and Neighbourhoods Act 2005 and (C) Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 in each of the last 10 years. [147997]

Mr. Hanson: Graffiti is not a specific offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971, the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 or the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Prosecutions for graffiti under these acts would be included with other offences, for example under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 it is likely these offences would be prosecuted under 'other criminal damage'. It is therefore not possible to separate graffiti offences from other acts of criminal damage.

Data on the number of environmental fixed penalty notices issued for graffiti-related offences are held by the Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The following table provided by DEFRA shows the number of fixed penalty notices issued for offences relating to graffiti by local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 as amended by the Clean Environment and Neighbourhoods Act 2005, for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. DEFRA do not hold this information broken down by police force area.

Local authority	*Number of fixed penalties issued*
2004-05	
Blyth Valley BC	1
Gateshead BC	26
LB Barking and Dagenham	6
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	5
Sheffield CC	1
Stockton-on-Tees DC	8
Total	47
2005-06	
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	1
Peterborough CC	2
Solihull BC	14
Southampton CC	2
Total	19

Under the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme, a fixed penalty of £80 may be issued for criminal damage up to a value of £500. While some PNDs issued for criminal damage may actually be for acts of graffiti, it is not possible to identify how many of these were issued for graffiti. This detailed information is only held by individual police forces.

Home Detention Curfews

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase the number of offences that fall within the Home Detention Curfew Scheme. [148196]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Detention Curfew Scheme is kept under careful review but at present there are no plans to make changes to the eligibility criteria of the scheme.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for which offences prisoners may be included in the Home Detention Curfew Release Scheme. [148197]

Mr. Hanson: Eligible prisoners primarily serving sentences of three months or more but less than four years may be considered for early release under the Home Detention Curfew scheme (HOC).

Certain categories of prisoners are statutorily excluded from HOC, including prisoners subject to the registration requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (formerly Part 1 of the Sex Offenders Act 1997) and prisoners serving extended sentences for violent offences. In addition, prisoners with any history of

sexual offending or serving sentences for certain serious offences are presumed unsuitable for release on HDC unless there are exceptional reasons to grant release. The categories of offences are: homicide, including manslaughter and causing death by dangerous driving; certain explosives offences; child cruelty; possession of a firearm with intent; possession of an offensive weapon and racially aggravated offences.

Prisoners who are not excluded or presumed unsuitable are eligible to be considered for HDC but are not granted release under the scheme unless they have a suitable release address and pass a careful risk assessment. Full details of the eligibility criteria and assessment process are contained in Prison Service Order 6700 which is available on the HM Prison Service website.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 910-11W, on home detention curfews, how many of those prisoners were returned to prison under the terms of a home detention curfew for committing *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* grievous bodily harm and *(e)* actual bodily harm. [148291]

Mr. Hanson: From Table 10.7 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, there were 402 recalls in 2003, 464 recalls in 2004, and 327 recalls from Home Detention Curfew during 2005 where the offender was charged with a new offence but it is not possible to give a full breakdown by offence because of disproportionate cost. This publication can be found in the House of Commons Library and the table can be accessed at:

http://www/homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Legal Aid Scheme: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many law practices in Wales received funds through the Crown courts in Wales for *(a)* legal aid advice and assistance and *(b)* legal aid including representation, in each of the last seven years, broken down by (i) the lowest possible geographical areas for which figures are available, (ii) the type of case and (iii) the nature of the work for which the legal aid was paid; and if he will make a statement. [147361]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the number of solicitor offices that received funding for proceedings in the Crown court by category of offence and geographical location of the solicitors' offices in Wales, for each of the last six years. Figures for 2000-01 are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

2001-02

	Homicide	*Serious violence and drugs*	*Lesser violence and drugs*	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Offences of dishonesty*	*Miscellaneous*[1]	*Public order offences*	*Unknown*[2]
Blaenau Gwent	—	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	5
Bridgend	3	10	10	7	7	5	6	3	8
Caerphilly	1	13	12	11	8	6	6	2	8
Cardiff	7	33	33	28	20	25	24	10	32
Carmarthenshire	—	9	7	8	4	5	6	4	9
Ceredigion	4	5	4	2	3	2	3	2	5
Conwy	—	5	5	3	4	3	6	2	6
Denbighshire	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	3
Flintshire	1	8	7	8	5	6	8	1	9
Gwynedd	—	6	7	3	5	2	3	1	8
Isle of Anglesey	1	4	2	2	4	2	2	—	6
Merthyr Tydfil	—	5	2	3	3	3	5	1	5
Monmouthshire	1	4	6	5	3	1	5	1	5
Neath Port Talbot	3	8	6	5	6	1	2	5	7
Newport	5	8	6	7	6	6	7	3	7
Pembrokeshire	3	6	3	5	3	5	2	2	7
Powys	3	10	7	6	9	5	4	6	13
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	7	17	17	12	9	6	10	9	14
Swansea City	3	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	8
Torfaen	2	5	5	5	3	3	2	1	3
Vale of Glamorgan	2	6	8	6	7	2	7	1	7
Wrexham	1	7	6	5	5	2	6	1	6

[1] Miscellaneous offences include other common law offences and offences prescribed by legislation that do not fall within the other categories.

[2] Unknown offences include payments made to solicitor firms where the offence is not recorded. For example, where payments are made on account.

2002-03

	Homicide	*Serious violence and drugs*	*Lesser violence and drugs*	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Offences of dishonesty*	*Miscellaneous*	*Public order offences*	*Unknown*
Blaenau Gwent	2	4	4	4	2	2	3	2	5
Bridgend	3	8	8	5	4	3	5	4	7
Caerphilly	5	12	13	9	6	10	9	6	9
Cardiff	8	32	29	30	23	29	22	18	31
Carmarthenshire	1	11	10	7	6	3	7	5	9
Ceredigion	2	4	5	3	3	3	5	2	6
Conwy	—	3	2	5	3	3	3	—	5
Denbighshire	1	4	4	3	3	3	4	2	3
Flintshire	—	7	6	4	5	3	5	1	8
Gwynedd	1	5	2	1	2	2	3	1	5
Isle of Anglesey	—	6	2	4	2	2	2	—	4
Merthyr Tydfil	—	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	3
Monmouthshire	—	4	6	4	1	4	2	—	5
Neath Port Talbot	2	8	8	6	6	3	5	4	5
Newport	3	8	8	8	6	7	6	4	9
Pembrokeshire	3	8	6	4	4	2	3	—	8
Powys	1	11	7	10	7	3	9	—	5
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1	15	13	11	8	4	11	4	14
Swansea City	4	8	4	5	5	4	7	5	6
Torfaen	—	5	4	4	5	4	3	1	4
Vale of Glamorgan	1	6	7	6	4	5	5	—	5
Wrexham	1	5	6	5	6	4	5	1	5

2003-04

	Homicide	*Serious violence and drugs*	*Lesser violence and drugs*	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Offences of dishonesty*	*Miscellaneous*	*Public order offences*	*Unknown*
Blaenau Gwent	—	4	3	2	2	2	4	1	5
Bridgend	1	9	9	7	5	4	5	5	8
Caerphilly	2	9	9	7	5	5	8	3	8
Cardiff	9	31	28	30	19	25	26	12	28
Carmarthenshire	5	11	6	6	5	8	9	3	9
Ceredigion	1	4	5	3	3	4	3	2	5
Conwy	—	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	4
Denbighshire	—	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	3
Flintshire	1	7	7	2	6	5	5	4	10
Gwynedd	—	5	5	2	2	2	5	—	5
Isle of Anglesey	1	5	5	3	5	3	2	—	5
Merthyr Tydfil	—	3	3	2	3	3	3	—	3
Monmouthshire	1	4	3	3	3	3	1	1	4
Neath Port Talbot	1	7	8	3	4	1	2	2	7
Newport	3	8	9	8	7	5	5	4	8
Pembrokeshire	1	7	7	8	4	3	6	3	8
Powys	2	10	7	7	4	2	8	4	10
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1	14	16	13	10	6	11	4	15
Swansea City	3	7	6	5	4	4	5	4	5
Torfaen	3	5	4	5	4	5	2	1	5
Vale of Glamorgan	—	5	5	4	5	3	3	3	6
Wrexham	1	5	5	5	5	3	5	3	3

2004-05

	Homicide	Serious violence and drugs	Lesser violence and drugs	Sexual offences	Burglary	Offences of dishonesty	Miscellaneous	Public order offences	Unknown
Blaenau Gwent	—	4	4	3	3	2	3	1	4
Bridgend	—	6	7	4	3	3	6	3	7
Caerphilly	3	8	8	6	5	5	4	4	7
Cardiff	9	34	36	33	26	28	30	13	34
Carmarthenshire	—	8	9	9	7	6	9	1	10
Ceredigion	3	4	5	4	2	2	3	2	5
Conwy	—	4	5	4	3	3	3	2	3
Denbighshire	3	4	3	2	4	2	2	2	3
Flintshire	1	7	5	4	6	3	5	3	8
Gwynedd	1	6	2	6	4	1	4	1	6
Isle of Anglesey	1	3	3	2	2	1	3	1	5
Merthyr Tydfil	—	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
Monmouthshire	1	4	4	5	2	1	3	1	5
Neath Port Talbot	5	8	7	4	3	3	5	1	6
Newport	6	9	7	8	8	8	9	6	10
Pembrokeshire	3	6	5	6	3	3	5	1	6
Powys	1	12	9	10	4	6	5	1	12
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	—	17	16	14	9	9	14	3	17
Swansea City	3	6	6	6	5	6	5	5	9
Torfaen	1	5	4	5	4	5	4	—	5
Vale of Glamorgan	—	6	6	4	3	6	5	1	6
Wrexham	3	5	5	6	4	4	5	3	5

2005-06

	Homicide	Serious violence and drugs	Lesser violence and drugs	Sexual offences	Burglary	Offences of dishonesty	Miscellaneous	Public order offences	Unknown
Blaenau Gwent	1	4	4	2	3	2	1	—	4
Bridgend	1	8	8	5	6	4	6	1	8
Caerphilly	2	6	5	9	4	5	6	3	5
Cardiff	13	36	33	30	23	25	26	11	31
Carmarthenshire	2	10	9	10	5	7	8	4	10
Ceredigion	2	4	3	3	1	1	5	1	5
Conwy	3	5	4	2	5	2	3	2	5
Denbighshire	1	4	3	3	3	3	2	—	3
Flintshire	1	6	7	5	6	7	7	1	8
Gwynedd	1	7	3	2	2	1	2	—	9
Isle of Anglesey	2	4	5	3	3	3	4	—	4
Merthyr Tydfil	—	2	2	1	2	—	2	—	2
Monmouthshire	—	4	4	2	2	3	4	2	3
Neath Port Talbot	1	8	6	6	4	6	7	4	6
Newport	4	7	6	7	7	6	7	3	8
Pembrokeshire	3	5	6	5	2	3	2	1	6
Powys	1	5	4	7	5	2	5	2	9
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	4	17	15	12	10	8	14	4	18
Swansea City	4	7	6	6	5	6	6	6	9
Torfaen	2	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	4
Vale of Glamorgan	1	6	4	4	4	3	5	2	5
Wrexham	2	6	5	5	5	6	6	3	6

2006-07

	Homicide	Serious violence and drugs	Lesser violence and drugs	Sexual offences	Burglary	Offences of dishonesty	Miscellaneous	Public order offences	Unknown
Blaenau Gwent	—	3	3	4	1	1	4	1	5
Bridgend	—	7	6	3	5	1	4	2	7
Caerphilly	6	10	6	6	5	3	9	2	9
Cardiff	9	35	32	28	24	24	30	13	37
Carmarthenshire	2	8	8	5	7	6	7	5	10
Ceredigion	2	3	4	2	1	3	4	—	6
Conwy	1	4	3	3	4	4	3	—	4
Denbighshire	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	—	3
Flintshire	1	6	6	4	5	5	6	2	7
Gwynedd	1	5	4	2	3	2	4	—	7
Isle of Anglesey	1	5	4	4	1	3	4	—	4
Merthyr Tydfil	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Monmouthshire	1	2	4	3	2	1	3	2	4
Neath Port Talbot	2	6	7	5	2	5	6	2	6
Newport	6	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	9
Pembrokeshire	1	4	3	4	3	2	4	2	4
Powys	2	8	3	4	1	2	3	—	7
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1	15	15	10	10	11	14	3	16
Swansea City	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	5	7
Torfaen	3	5	5	4	2	4	4	1	4
Vale of Glamorgan	—	6	4	5	4	4	6	3	6
Wrexham	3	5	6	6	5	2	5	—	6

In addition to receiving payments directly from the Crown court, the Legal Services Commission also pays solicitors' offices directly under individual cases contracts for proceedings in the Crown court in cases expected to last more than 40 days at court.

The following tables show the number of solicitors' offices that had received these payments by category of law and geographical area within Wales. These solicitors offices may have also received payments directly from the Crown courts for other cases.

2001-02

	Homicide
Swansea City	1

2002-03

	Homicide
Swansea City	1

2003-04

	Homicide	Serious violence and drugs	Offences of dishonesty
Cardiff	—	—	3
Newport	—	3	—
Swansea City	1	—	—

2004-05

	Serious violence and drugs	Offences of dishonesty	Miscellaneous
Bridgend	1	—	—
Caerphilly	1	—	—
Cardiff	1	3	1
Carmarthenshire	1	—	—
Merthyr Tydfil	1	—	1
Neath Port Talbot	4	—	—
Newport	3	—	1
Powys	1	—	—
Swansea City	1	—	—

2005-06

	Serious violence and drugs	Offences of dishonesty	Miscellaneous
Bridgend	3	—	—
Caerphilly	4	—	—
Cardiff	10	2	1
Carmarthenshire	1	—	—
Merthyr Tydfil	1	—	1
Neath Port Talbot	4	—	—
Newport	4	—	1
Powys	1	—	—
Swansea City	1	—	—

	2006-07	
	Serious violence and drugs	*Offences of dishonesty*
Bridgend	1	—
Caerphilly	2	—
Cardiff	10	3
Neath Port Talbot	2	1
Newport	4	—
Wrexham	1	—

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many law practices in Wales received funds through the Legal Services Commission for *(a)* legal aid advice and assistance and *(b)* legal aid including representation, in each of the last seven years, broken down by (i) type of case and (ii) the lowest-level geographical areas for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [146846]

(2) how many applications for legal aid in Wales were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected in each of the last seven years, broken down by (i) the lowest level areas for which figures are available, (ii) the type of case and (iii) the nature of the work which the legal aid was applied for; and if he will make a statement; [146857]

(3) how much legal aid funding was provided by the Legal Services Commission in each of the smallest geographical areas of Wales for which figures are available in each of the last seven years, broken down by *(a)* the type of case and *(b)* the nature of the work for which the legal aid was paid; and if he will make a statement; [146911]

(4) how many legal cases in Wales received legal aid in each of the last seven years, broken down by *(a)* the lowest possible geographical areas for which figures are available, *(b)* the type of case and *(c)* the type of work for which the legal aid was paid; and if he will make a statement. [147010]

Bridget Prentice: There are 22 bid zones within Wales, and seven categories of work. The categories include Legal Help, CLS Direct, civil representation, Criminal Lower, Criminal Higher, Criminal Case Contracts and CDS Direct.

Each type of work will have its own further category of law (an average of 10 categories). Providing this information over seven years would produce an answer which would include more than 10,000 items of data. The information requested is therefore not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Magistrates Courts

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average time was between the first hearing after charge in the magistrates' court and the date when magistrates committed a case for trial at the Crown court in the last 12 months; [147955]

(2) how many and what proportion of cases listed for a committal hearing at magistrates' courts were not effective and adjourned to another day in the last 12 months; [147956]

(3) in how many adjourned committal hearings adjournment was sought by the *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* defence in the last 12 months; [147957]

(4) in how many cases adjournment was sought in committal hearings because papers for the committal were prosecution papers not ready to be presented to the court in the last 12 months; [147958]

(5) what the average length of adjournment was in cases where hearings listed for committal were adjourned for another committal hearing on another day in the last 12 months; [147998]

(6) what the average length of adjournment between a defendant's first appearance in court after charge and the first listing for a committal hearing was in the last 12 months; [147999]

(7) what records are kept of the reasons for adjournment of committal hearings; [148000]

(8) how many cases in magistrates' courts in England and Wales were listed for committal more than *(a)* once and *(b)* twice in the last 12 months; [148001]

(9) how many committal hearings were listed in magistrates' courts in England and Wales in the last 12 months; [148002]

(10) whether he has made an estimate of the cost to *(a)* defendants, *(b)* their employers and *(c)* others involved besides the Court and the prosecution of non-effective committal hearings. [148022]

Maria Eagle: The following table presents key statistics on the progression of committal proceedings in the magistrates courts.

No centrally-collated information is available on the reasons for, or the costs arising from, adjournments in committal proceedings. However, in the year ending March 2007, there were 3,057 magistrates courts trials that were ineffective because the prosecution was not ready (1.7 per cent. of all recorded trials in the period), and a further 4,218 ineffective because the defence was not ready (2.3 per cent. of recorded trials). Equivalent figures are not available for committal proceedings.

No information is available on the total number of committal hearings listed in the magistrates courts in England and Wales. However, the table shows that:

there were around 98,000 cases in the magistrates courts in 2005 which were disposed of through committal or sending to the Crown Court

there were an average of 2.6 listings per case in 2006 (covering the whole duration of these cases in the magistrates courts)

On this basis, it can be estimated that cases committed or sent to the Crown Court account for an approximate total of 255,000 listings per year in the magistrates courts.

Key statistics on indictable and triable either way magistrates court cases in England and Wales that were committed for sentence or trial in the Crown Court, 2006

		Estimates from the magistrates courts time intervals survey 2006					
	Total number of cases per year (2005)	*Average number of days from first listing to completion (days)*	*95% confidence interval (+/- days)*	*Percentage of cases completed at first listing (i.e. with no adjournments)*	*Average number of adjournments (number)*	*Average length of adjournments (days)*	*Number of defendants in TIS survey sample*
Committals to the Crown Court for trial	80,000	40	1	35	1.6	25	4,366
Committals to the Crown Court for sentence	18,000	29	3	37	1.6	18	880
All committals	98,000	39	1	37	1.6	24	5,346
All indictable/triable either way cases	423,000	52	1	30	2.1	25	27,730

Notes:
1. Data on the total number of cases is taken from the Home Office publication "Criminal Statistics 2005". This is the most recent full year for which published data are available. All other date are taken from the Time Intervals Survey (TIS) in the magistrates courts. The TIS is a sample survey that produces estimates of the average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates' courts. More Information on TIS is available from the Ministry of Justice website.
2. All 'committals' statistics shown above include cases which were sent to the Crown Court for trial without committal proceedings, under section 51 of the Crime and Disorder Ad 1998. The above figures relate to both adult and youth defendants, and include both summonsed and charged cases. This TIS data relates to indictable and triable either way cases only, and therefore excludes the small number of summary cases that are committed to the Crown Court However, these cases will be counted in the total number of cases per year.
3. "First listing" refers to the first listed hearing of the case in the magistrates courts Figures for adjournments relate to the whole duration of the case in the magistrates courts, and will therefore count adjournments to other hearings besides the committal hearing. Figures are not available on the number of adjournments by hearing type. The number of adjournments in any given case is defined as being one less than the number of times the case was listed. A listing refers to any occasion when the case was considered by the court. The average number of adjournments is the average across all cases, including those which were completed at first listing and where no adjournments occurred. The average length of adjournments is calculated by dividing the duration of a case (from first listing to completion) by the number of adjournments that occurred.

Prisoners: Facilities

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 912-3W, on prisoners: facilities, how many prisoners categorised as vulnerable have been held in police and court cells since January 2006; [147976]

(2) how many prisoners have been held in *(a)* court cells and *(b)* police cells for two or more successive nights over the last 12 months; [148053]

(3) through which bodies food is provided to prisoners housed in police and court cells; [148054]

(4) how many prisoners have spent their first night in custody in a police or court cell since January 2006; and *(a)* where, *(b)* by whom and *(c)* at what point in custody such prisoners' (i) drug treatment, (ii) detoxification and (iii) wider health needs were assessed. [148055]

Mr. Hanson: All efforts are made to avoid housing prisoners vulnerable to self harm or with drugs or health needs in police cells under Operation Safeguard and in court cells. The information requested is not held centrally. Those identified as at risk of self-harm or self-inflicted death will have that identified on their PER (Prisoner Escort Record) form.

The number of prisoners who have spent two or more successive nights in police cells under Operation Safeguard is not centrally held. Since January 2007, 35 prisoners have been held exceptionally in court cells for two successive nights.

The provision of food to prisoners held in police or court cells is the responsibility of the individual police force or custody contractor.

The number of prisoners who spent their first night in custody under Operation Safeguard or in court cells is not held centrally.

Prisoners: Learning Disability

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what support there is from within the Probation Service for people on probation with learning disabilities; [148112]

(2) what support there is from within the Prison Service for prisoners with learning disabilities. [148115]

Mr. Hanson: People with learning disabilities have the same rights as other citizens. To help ensure they receive the extra support to which they entitled under the under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), part of the Department of Health, has produced the document 'Positive Practice, Positive Outcomes; A handbook for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System working with offenders with learning disabilities' (CSIP, 2007).

This sets out the support that must be provided by the police, the courts, in prisons and on probation.

A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on officer assaults were recorded in each month in each year since 2002, broken down by prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [147387]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Lady to the table of annual figures that I have placed in the Libraries of the House.

Young Offenders: Restraints Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how often the *(a)* figure of four hold and *(b)* double basket hold was used in each secure training centre in each of the last seven years. [147708]

Mr. Hanson: To provide the information requested would require secure training centres to review every individual incident report to identify which techniques were used in the course of incidents, therefore the information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The double embrace technique used in the seated position was withdrawn by the Youth Justice Board in June 2004, and subsequently discontinued on the advice of the expert panel.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what response was made by *(a)* the Youth Justice Board and *(b)* the Home Office to the representations from NCH on the risks of restraint in secure training centres. [147710]

Mr. Hanson: A report was commissioned in 2003 by the Youth Justice Board from the National Children's Bureau. The report raised no specific risks related to restraints in the secure training centres, but raised a number issues affecting the whole of the juvenile secure estate.

In response to the report, the Youth Justice Board developed a code of practice for managing challenging behaviour in all parts of the secure estate. It has also instituted a behaviour management programme, which deals with a number of the issues raised in the report.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions pain distraction techniques to the *(a)* nose, *(b)* thumb and *(c)* rib were used in each secure training centre in each of the last five years. [147711]

Mr. Hanson: The available information, provided by the Youth Justice Board, is given in the following table.

Use of distraction techniques at secure training centres

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Rainsbrook					
Nose	n/a	90	48	11	0
Rib	n/a	8	2	0	0
Thumb	n/a	34	38	9	2
Medway					
Nose	n/a	140	145	41	0
Rib	n/a	35	1	0	2
Thumb	n/a	33	65	27	3
Hassockfield[2]					
Nose	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
Rib	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Thumb	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	1
Oakhill[3]					
Nose	n/a	n/a	n/a	67	2
Rib	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Thumb	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	4

[1] 2007 data covers period January to May only.
[2] Hassockfield was only able to provide data from January 2006 in the time available.
[3] Oakhill was only able to provide data from January 2006 in the time available.
Source:
YJB data.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Youth Justice Board has placed in the Library statistics on the use of restraint in secure training centres other than in response to a parliamentary question in the last five years. [147712]

Mr. Hanson: Following a request from the Joint Committee on Human Rights, we agreed to place quarterly statistics in the Library. So far, data for the final three quarters of 2006 have been placed in the Library.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Youth Justice Board has released information about the use of restraint other than in response to a parliamentary question in the last five years. [147713]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has replied to numerous requests for information about use of restraint and it supplies quarterly statistics which are placed in the Library of the House. As the information requested covers an extended period, it could not be collated without disproportionate cost.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment was made of the level of risk to trainees in incidents of restraint in secure training centres examined by an external expert reporting to Northamptonshire police following the death of Gareth Myatt. [147896]

Mr. Hanson: The expert witness concerned raised a number of issues related to the system of restraint used in secure training centres. After considering the expert's report the Youth Justice Board suspended use of the double embrace technique in June 2004.

Modifications to the approved holds were subsequently assessed by the panel of experts advising the Youth Justice Board. These modifications were adopted in 2005 and the double embrace technique was permanently withdrawn.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions the expert panel advising the Youth Justice Board on restraint met between 1996 and 2007. [147709]

Mr. Hanson: An expert panel advising the Home Office on restraint techniques met on 27 January 1998. Expert panels advising the Youth Justice Board met on 25 November 2004, 10 March 2005 and 21 December2006.

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of voter turnout among people with English as a second language. [147766]

Mr. Wills: The Government have not made any estimation of election turnout rates among those eligible voters whose first language is not English. The Electoral Commission has the role of evaluating election turnout, and published its report 'Election 2005: Turnout. How many, who and why?' in October 2005. That report indicated, based on research polls, that the turnout rate of BME groups was 47 per cent. (lower than the overall turnout of 61 per cent.). However,, this figure does not include any consideration of English as a second language, and the Commission has not included any research into this issue within its report. Such research would undoubtedly prove difficult to undertake, since it would not be clear from any direct recorded source whether an eligible voter uses another language, other than English, as his first language.

The Government, however, have taken steps to ensure that all eligible voters, including those with English as a second language, should have access to the electoral process. Sections 36 and 37 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 enable local electoral officers to provide certain documents and guidance to voters in alternative languages.

Some authorities have taken advantage of these new powers to provide guidance in a number of languages. However, ballot papers are exempted from the documents that can be translated, as this would breach secrecy rules.

Witnesses: Children

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are in relation to the conduct of court cases in EU countries involving minors from other member states intervention in *(a)* countries and *(b)* circumstances where it is considered the relevant court is not suitably competent; and if he will make a statement. [146934]

Bridget Prentice: Ministers have no powers to intervene in court proceedings in the UK or in the courts of other countries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what duty of care the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission owes to parents with care in respect of maintenance entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [146139]

Mr. Plaskitt: The responsibility for paying child maintenance lies with the non-resident parent in each case, not with the administrative body (whether CSA now or the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the future). It follows that CMEC will not have a common law duty of care to its clients in respect of child maintenance.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of non-resident parents each year who would be eligible for an adjustment to their child maintenance under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to reflect their incomes being *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower than in the previous tax years if the threshold for re-assessment was set at (i) 10, (ii) 15, (iii) 20 and (iv) 25 per cent.; [146181]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of non-resident parents who will have their maintenance amended using the previous year's HM Revenue and Customs income data under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [146193]

Mr. Plaskitt: With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency caseload will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting caseload, it is not possible to estimate how many non- resident parents will be eligible for an adjustment.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his policy is on charging parents with care an upfront fee to use the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement; [146433]

(2) what reasons he has made it his policy that charges applied for the use of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission should only fall on the non-resident parent; what level of charges is planned; what the purpose of the charges is; and if he will make a statement. [147109]

Mr. Plaskitt: The final arrangements for charging have not yet been decided. The Secretary of State will be responsible for laying regulations on the specific arrangements for any charging scheme following advice from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

I refer the hon. Member to paragraph 5.48 of the White Paper: A new system of child maintenance [Cm 6979] and to paragraph 5.43 of the White Paper Consultation Response [Cm 7061].

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to exempt non-resident parents using the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from paying fees if they have *(a)* standing orders or direct debit arrangements and *(b)* good levels of compliance; and if he will make a statement. [146436]

Mr. Plaskitt: The final arrangements for charging have not yet been decided. The Secretary of State will be responsible for laying regulations on the specific arrangements for any charging scheme following advice from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

I refer the hon. Member to paragraphs 5.48 and 5.49 of the White Paper: 'A new system of child maintenance' [Cm 6979].

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to give the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission powers to pursue maintenance from non-resident parents who have moved abroad; and if he will make a statement. [146444]

Mr. Plaskitt: As is currently the case with the Child Support Agency, the Commission will not usually have jurisdiction to make or pursue a maintenance liability where the non-resident parent moves abroad.

The Ministry of Justice does however operate a system for administering international child and spousal maintenance cases; this is known as the reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders (REMO).

Where a parent with care applies to their local magistrates' court or family proceedings court, details of the maintenance liability can be referred to the foreign jurisdiction—where the non-resident parent now resides—whom will be able to apply their domestic collection and enforcement mechanisms in order to recover the amount due. They will then refer this money back to the UK REMO administrators.

The UK has reciprocal maintenance agreements with over 100 states and territories.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analytical mechanism underlies the choice of the shares of gross income which will be applied to calculate the child maintenance amounts under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146607]

Mr. Plaskitt: A tax benefit model was used to convert a range of gross incomes to equivalent net incomes based on expected tax and national insurance structures for 2009-10. Different percentages were applied to these levels of gross income. The rates were chosen so that the resultant liabilities were broadly the same as liabilities under the post 2003 scheme at the equivalent net income levels.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget will be allocated to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to assist and enable parents who have broken up to establish private maintenance arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [146609]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 444W.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Powers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department plans to give the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission the power to seek curfews; and if he will make a statement. [146606]

Mr. Plaskitt: Introducing this new compliance measure provides the Commission with a wider range of powers while strengthening the message that the non-payment of maintenance is a serious matter.

Where other, more direct methods of enforcement have been tried but maintenance remains outstanding, we need adequate measures in place to encourage compliance from those who wilfully refuse or culpably neglect to pay child maintenance. And we believe that, in the right cases, applying to the court for a curfew order against the non-resident parent will indeed encourage that compliance.

We consider curfew orders to be an effective alternative to committal; it will create a strong incentive for the non-resident parent to comply but will not impede his or her ability to do so by causing him or her to lose his or her job.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children in families receiving child maintenance *(a)* before and *(b)* after the introduction of the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146442]

Mr. Plaskitt: The overall impact of the measures in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill 2007 are set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) which was published alongside the Bill. The number of parents with care estimated to receive maintenance, currently and post implementation of the measures in the Bill is set out in table 6 of the RIA. This equates to an increase from around 1 million children benefiting from maintenance currently to around 2 million children in steady state.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to place a legal duty on non-resident parents to report a change of income which is above the threshold for revised maintenance assessment as part of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission operations; and if he will make a statement. [146632]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have no plans to place such a legal duty on non-resident parents.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it will be necessary, under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, to carry out an annual income variation review for the majority of non-resident parents; and if he will make a statement. [146633]

Mr. Plaskitt: The intention is that each case will be subject to an annual review in order to keep maintenance calculations up to date with the parent's circumstances, including the income of the non-resident parent.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has periodically to review the standard percentage rates of income for child maintenance under the New Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [146634]

Mr. Plaskitt: We will review the standard percentage rates during the course of each Parliament.

Child Support Agency: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will provide his assessment of the Child Support Agency's performance against its performance targets in the 12 months to 31 May 2007. [146622]

Mr. Plaskitt: Secretary of State performance targets have been set for April 2007 to March 2008 and published in the Child Support Agency business plan. Progress against these targets for the quarter ending June 2007 will be available in the July publication of the Child Support Agency (CSA) Quarterly Summary Statistics, a National Statistics publication. A separate set of targets and levels were set for the period April 2006 to March 2007 and published in the Child Support Agency business plan for that year. Performance against the 2006-7 targets is available in the March 2007 publication of the Quarterly Summary Statistics.

Copies of Quarterly Summary Statistics can be found at

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

Copies of the Child Support Agency business plans for 2006-07 and 2007-08 can be found at

www.csa.gov.uk/

Copies should also be available in the House of Commons Library.

Child Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of collecting child maintenance directly from earnings as an addition to the pay as you earn system of taxation; and if he will make a statement. [146630]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are not considering moving the core functions of Child Maintenance to HMRC. We asked Sir David Henshaw to assess the merits of collecting child maintenance directly from earnings as part of the pay as you earn system. He concluded that this is not a sensible approach.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to paragraphs 123-6 of "Recovering child support: routes to responsibility, Sir David Henshaw's report to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions", and to paragraphs 45-6 of "A fresh start: child support redesign—the Government's response to Sir David Henshaw".

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons he plans to allow enabling consent orders for child maintenance made by a court to be overridden by a Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission calculation after 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [146702]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have no plan to change the current rules whereby, consent orders for child maintenance, of more than 12 months duration, may be set aside by the Child Support Agency if a parent applies for a maintenance calculation. The 12 month rule works well, encouraging courts to record fair and consistent levels of child maintenance and ensuring that if circumstances change or agreements break down, parents have a quick route into the Child Support Agency and maintenance continues to flow to children.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimates he has made of the expected reduction in caseload under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and what proportion of the reduced case load is expected to be accounted for through *(a)* maintenance arrangements made privately, *(b)* maintenance arrangements through the courts and *(c)* no maintenance arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [146704]

Mr. Plaskitt: The exact composition of the future case load is subject to significant behavioural uncertainties and is entirely dependent on the choices that parents make. The following table shows the expected composition of the future case load once all of the policy changes have fully bedded in:

	Percentage
Statutory maintenance service	40
Voluntary arrangements	30
Courts	5
No arrangement	25

The Department for Work and Pensions is currently conducting further research to assess the choices that parents are likely to make through the Relationship Separation Survey which is due to be published in spring 2008. This survey will be used to develop and test these estimates further.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what threshold has been set for shared care to affect a child maintenance assessment under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [147107]

Mr. Plaskitt: The shared care rules will remain largely as they are now. A non-resident parent will be entitled to a reduction in statutory maintenance if they care for a qualifying child for on average at least one night per week.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on shared care arrangements in relation to child maintenance payable under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; whether a shared care maintenance reduction can be allowed in cases where no long-term shared care agreement is available; and if he will make a statement. [147108]

Mr. Plaskitt: Maintenance will be reduced to take account of shared care arrangements where a non-resident parent has overnight care of the children on average for at least one night per week.

Provisions in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill will allow for regulations to provide that a reduction in maintenance could be based either on past evidence of shared care, or on an agreement for future shared care arrangements. Other provisions will allow for regulations to provide that in cases where both parents have agreed that care of the children will be shared, but they have not yet reached an agreement on the pattern or frequency, the Commission will be able to proceed and reduce maintenance for a certain period on the basis of an assumption about shared care.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what penalties will be applied by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission when false information is supplied by non-resident parents in relation to child maintenance calculations; and if he will make a statement. [147110]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are two criminal offences in relation to the supply of information in child maintenance cases. These are knowingly providing false information and failing to provide information where a request is made. A person guilty of either offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £1,000.

It is envisaged that these offences will be applied by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in the same way that they are currently applied by the Child Support Agency.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Government are delaying the increased child maintenance disregard to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [146688]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Government expects to extend the £10 disregard to parents with care on benefit covered by the old scheme rules by the end of 2008. This should benefit 40,000 parents with care and 55,000 children. It is essential that children can benefit from maintenance that parents provide. The White Paper makes clear that, from 2010-11, the Government will significantly increase the amount of maintenance that all parents with care on benefit can keep before it affects the level of benefit they receive. This timescale enables further analysis to be undertaken on the potential impact of different levels of disregard on child poverty, compliance rates and work incentives.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of lone parents *(a)* in employment *(b)* out of employment are receiving child maintenance in the UK. [146691]

Mr. Plaskitt: Analysis of data from the 2005-06 Family Resources Survey shows that around 40 per cent. of eligible lone parents in employment and around 15 per cent. of eligible lone parents who are not in employment report that they receive child maintenance.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that a greater proportion of non-compliant non-resident parents face enforcement action; [146719]

(2) what steps are being taken to increase the proportion of females receiving payments from non-resident parents. [146720]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to ensure a greater proportion of non-compliant, non-resident parents face enforcement action. [PQ146719] and

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps are being taken to increase the proportion of females receiving payments from non-resident parents. [PQ146720]

The Agency is now in the second year of a three year Operational Improvement Plan. The first year of the Operational Improvement Plan focused on the organisational and operational restructuring of the Agency, and the training of our people to increase our capacity and capability.

Although we made no commitments in the first year of the Operational Improvement Plan, some early improvements are evident, and more money is already getting to more children. In the year to March 2007, the number of parents with care receiving maintenance saw an increase of 9% from 429,000 to 466,000, benefiting 635,000 children.

The second year of the Operational Improvement Plan, focuses on resolving the remaining computer system difficulties, and improving rates of compliance and the collection of child maintenance. Improvements to the computer system will help to further boost productivity, aid debt and legal enforcement activities and contribute to an increase in levels of case compliance. Building on the increase of our people, including quadrupling those employed in enforcement work, there will be stronger focus on the collection of debt. We will continue to work with debt collection agencies.

The Agency is also working to counter a culture of non-compliance among some non-resident parents. In March this year we launched the first phase of a sustained maintenance enforcement campaign, which highlighted the significantly increased enforcement action undertaken through the courts in the past year. The Agency has increased the use of liability orders, County Court Judgments and bailiff action, taking the total number of court actions to 34,000 in the year to January 2007 an increase of 36% from 25,000 in the previous year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Employment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how many jobseeker allowance recipients have refused jobs on grounds of *(a)* conscientious and *(b)* religious objections. [146251]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 478W.

Gender

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been issued with gender recognition certificates in the last 12 months. [147736]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

In the period from 4 July 2006 to 3 July 2007, the Gender Recognition Panel issued 542 full gender recognition certificates and 26 interim gender recognition certificates. Interim certificates are issued to people who are in an existing marriage or civil partnership. They allow the holder to apply to the courts for his or her existing marriage or civil partnership to be annulled or dissolved and for a full gender recognition certificate to be issued signifying full legal recognition of the acquired gender.

Of the 26 interim certificate-holders, seven people have proceeded to obtain full certificates and five are currently going through the annulment or dissolution process. Some full certificates will also have been issued by the courts in this period following the issue of interim certificates by the panel prior to 4 July 2006. The exact number of these cases is not immediately available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department has received from the Rent Service on the impact on housing benefit rates of the switch from using the median to the mean when calculating the relevant rates. [146047]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Rent Service has provided the Department with estimated median local housing allowance rates for a selection of local authorities. These were based on their existing market evidence database and were intended to be illustrative only and not an indication of what median local housing allowance rates will be for the 2008 roll-out.

The Rent Service have since set up dedicated teams of rent officers to lead a programme of analysis and collection of rental data to ensure that the local housing allowance rates remain robust and are representative of the private rented sector market.

The Rent Service has committed to providing indicative median local housing allowance rates to all local authorities in October 2007, providing provisional median local housing allowance rates in January 2008 and providing the live median local housing allowance rates to all local authorities in March 2008.

The national local housing allowance rate in the private rented sector will be set at the median of market rents, while the pathfinder model of the local housing allowance set the rate at the midpoint of market rents.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of the local housing allowance on differences between housing benefit received and rent paid by claimants subject to a single room rent/shared room restriction. [146048]

Mr. Plaskitt: Any shortfall between the housing benefit received and contractual rent at the time of national roll-out of the local housing allowance will depend on the trends in local rent levels, the accommodation choices made by tenants and the tenant's income. It is currently hard to predict each of these aspects up to the point of national roll-out of the local housing allowance. We will be monitoring shortfalls between the shared room rate and contractual rent as part of the two year review of the national roll-out of the local housing allowance.

The shared room rate under the national roll-out of the local housing allowance covers a broader definition of what can be counted as shared accommodation than the single room rent restriction. Additionally, as the shared room rate will be set at the median of local market rents, this ensures that 50 per cent. of the shared properties on the Rent Officers' database will be affordable at the shared room rate. Since the rates are published, tenants will also be aware of their maximum housing benefit entitlement in advance and be able to make an informed decision about what accommodation they can afford.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether rent officers are required to take into account actual rent levels when setting *(a)* broad market rental area boundaries and *(b)* local housing allowance rates. [146049]

Mr. Plaskitt: The definition for broad rental market area (BRMA) is laid down in statute and it does not require rent officers to have any regard to rent levels. It relates primarily to access to facilities and services for health, education, recreation, personal banking and shopping. The BRMA must contain a mix of property types held on a variety of tenancies.

When setting local housing allowance (LHA) rates rent officers must have regard to rents in the broad market rental area. Under the current pathfinder scheme the LHA is calculated by gathering evidence of rents for properties of the appropriate size and excluding those that are exceptionally high or low to determine a high rent and low rent. The high and low rents are then added together and divided by two to produce the LHA.

Under the Welfare Reform Act 2007, we are introducing a new way of calculating the LHA based on a median rent that does not require the rent officer to exclude any rents from the evidence.

Immigration: Social Security Benefits

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average amount of benefits taken up by an immigrant from *(a)* a European Union country and *(b)* another country in the last 12 months. [146103]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Learning Disability: Social Security Benefits

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of loss of benefits by people with a learning disability wishing to take up work on their ability to do so; and if he will introduce measures to ensure flexibility in the benefits system for such people. [147399]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are aware that people with severe or specific learning difficulties are one of the groups least likely to move off state benefits and into sustained work. We recognise that part-time work can be important to well-being, to developing self worth, and a stepping-stone to sustained work and a life independent of the benefit system. That is why we already have the permitted work rules in the current incapacity benefits system which enable a person on incapacity benefit to work up to 16 hours and earn up to £86 per week, for an initial period of up to 52 weeks, to allow engagement with the labour market. For people on income support the earnings disregard is currently £20 per week.

We are bringing these rules forward into the new employment and support allowance (ESA) However, within the new ESA we will be aligning the existing permitted work earnings limits. This means that anyone claiming ESA will be able to earn up to £86 per week for up to 52 weeks without it affecting their benefit entitlement.

Linking rules are designed to give customers security when they leave benefit for work or training. If the job or training does not work out, they will receive the same cash level if they return to benefit within a specified period. We know that the security that linking rules provide is important to many people and we will continue to have linking rules in ESA.

We believe these rules are a valuable element of the current benefit system and, combined with the rules we have on unlimited voluntary work while on incapacity benefits, provide customers with a wide range of opportunities to try out work themselves. We will continue to look for other ways of helping people take up opportunities to work and increase their options without fear of their benefits being immediately affected.

Pensioners: Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Warrington who received energy efficiency grants in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [147360]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

During the 2006-07 financial year, the Government's warm front scheme provided grants to 645 pensioner households in Warrington. Of these, 327 households were in the Warrington, North area and 318 in Warrington, South.

Recruitment: Internet

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of online job searches made via Jobcentre Plus facilities in March resulted in placements. [147728]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available.

Social Security

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of income support back to work bonus payments in each year since their creation. [146222]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information about back to work bonus payments is in the following table.

Income support customers paid back to work bonuses: Great Britain

	Total claims paid	*Total amount paid (£)*
1999	14,560	5,838,442
2000	16,650	7,017,631
2001	15,340	6,757,296
2002	14,650	6,550,321
2003[1]	11,840	5,489,155
2004[2]	12,280	6,086,704
2005[2]	930	488,274

[1] 2003 figures exclude May 2003. These figures are not available due to system errors.

[2] There are no new claims to the back to work bonus scheme after October 2004 and only transitional claims up to January 2005.

Notes:

1. Figures are taken from ISCS 100 per cent. monthly scans and are given as annual figures (i.e. the sum from January to December each year) where applicable.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Total amounts are rounded to the nearest pound.
4. Figures are not available prior to January 1999.

Source:

ISCS 100 per cent. monthly scans.

PRIME MINISTER

Olympic Games: Departmental Responsibilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with Olympic stakeholders before making the decision to move the Olympics Minister to the Cabinet Office. [148081]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Public Appointments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to invite Parliament to have confirmation hearings for major public appointments. [147099]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to my statement on 3 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 815-20.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Low Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants *(a)* are receiving the minimum wage and *(b)* earn less than £6 per hour. [147101]

Gillian Merron: Departments have delegated authority to determine pay arrangements for their own staff below the senior civil service that meet their own business needs. Under the delegated arrangements, information on salaries of individual members of staff and the hours that they work, which is necessary to calculate hourly rates of pay, is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of staff in the Prime Minister's Office are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps the Prime Minister's Office has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147336]

Gillian Merron: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister's Office.

144 members of staff in Cabinet Office (9.3 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in his Office have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147046]

Gillian Merron: The number of Cabinet Office staff with periods of sick absence lasting less than five days for the calendar year 2006 are as follows:

	Number
(a) five or more absences	67
(b) four absences	42
(c) three absences	76
(d) two absences	157

Disadvantaged: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many families in Blackpool, South have been classified as at risk as part of her Department's Families at Risk review. [146451]

Gillian Merron: The Families at Risk Review found that in 2005, around 2 per cent. of families in Britain experienced five or more disadvantages. For example, those with parents lacking any qualifications. This was based on analysis using the Families and Children Study (FACS), which is representative of families with children in Britain. At the local council level, the number of families with five or more disadvantages in the FACS is very small, and it is therefore not possible to accurately estimate how many families are at risk in Blackpool, South or indeed in any other specific areas.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many projects in Blackpool have received funding from her Department since the launch of the Social Exclusion Plan. [146452]

Gillian Merron: None. The Social Exclusion Task Force does not deliver services itself and therefore does not directly fund projects.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which board positions were filled by Government Ministers on *(a)* the Olympic Board, *(b)* the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, *(c)* the Olympic Delivery Authority and *(d)* MISC 25 as at 26 June; and which Ministers now fill such positions. [147843]

Tessa Jowell: As at 26 June, I co-chaired the Olympic Board and sat on the MISC 25 Committee as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. My right hon. Friend, the Member for Sheffield, Central also attended the Olympic Board and MISC 25 Committee as part of his duties as Minister for Sport.

I continue to co-chair the Olympic Board as Minister for the Olympics. The new Minister for Sport will also attend the Olympic Board.

The MISC 25 Committee is yet to be formally reconstituted following the appointment of the Prime Minister.

There is no ministerial representation on the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) Board.

As at 26 June my right hon. Friend, the Member for Sheffield, Central, sat on the Board of the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). I will nominate a new Government representative to sit on the LOCOG Board in due course.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which civil servants are responsible for the Government's London 2012 Olympics budget; how many civil servants work on the project; in which *(a)* Departments and *(b)* directorates they are based; and what mechanisms exist to co-ordinate the work with officials in the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [147851]

Tessa Jowell: The civil servants responsible for the London 2012 budget remain in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), which is based in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport but reports to me. The Accounting Officer remains the Permanent Secretary at DCMS. Officials in other parts of DCMS and in other Departments across Whitehall continue to work on specific policy aspects of the Olympic programme—all of which are co-ordinated by GOE. There are currently 51.5 full-time equivalent staff working in GOE and three full-time press officers working on the Olympics. I also have a small private office in the Cabinet Office.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1831W, on policy review, for what reason the Economic Dynamism group did not produce a final report. [147032]

Edward Miliband: The work of the Economic Dynamism strand of the Policy Review, is informing a wide range of Government business including the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, which will be published in the autumn.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 543W and *(b)* 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1831W, on the policy review, if he will make an estimate of the cost of the policy review, separately identifying costs of (A) producing presentations, (B) designing, printing and distributing reports, (C) website costs, (D) consultancy fees and (E) staff time. [147038]

Edward Miliband: External costs of the full Policy Review process, covering six major policy areas, were £93,000 for producing reports, £10,000 for a web site and e-mail alerts, and £90,000 for the deliberative exercise, a total of £193,000. On the cost of presentations and staff time I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 543W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Energy: EU Law

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for what reasons the Government have recommended the use of real time displays in its proposals for meeting the Energy Services Directive; [146647]

(2) what consideration the Government have given to introducing smart meters with displays in May 2008 prior to the implementation of the Energy Services Directive. [146648]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* In the Energy White Paper, the Government made clear their view that display devices could give gas and electricity customers information to help them make early reductions in their energy use. At present, information available to the Government suggests that smart meters are not yet cost-effective. We expect this to change, and further activity in respect of smart metering is being undertaken by interested parties to improve understanding of the costs and benefits. In setting out their White Paper proposals on display devices, the Government indicated that they would consult on the implementation of these proposals in the context of its ambitions to see a roll-out of smart meters within 10 years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147335]

Paul Goggins: 53 members of staff (2.6 per cent.) are making additional voluntary contributions (AVCs). Pension packs for new entrants, which include information on AVCs, are given to staff as part of the Department's induction process.

In addition, existing members have been informed that information about the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, including information on AVCs, is available on the following websites:

www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk

for Northern Ireland civil service members of staff and

www.civilservicepensions.co.uk

for Home civil service members of staff.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147315]

Mr. Woodward: My Department carried out a survey of staff travel habits in 2005. Approximately 1,500 staff in Belfast were surveyed, and 11 per cent. said they use public transport to commute to work.

My Department intends to produce a work place travel plan by the end of 2007.

Northern Ireland Public Appointments Commissioner: Public Appointments

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what directorships have been declared by the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland. [148582]

Mr. Woodward: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departments: Ministerial Responsibility

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Solicitor-General which Minister has overall responsibility for the Government's policy to reduce fraud in the public sector. [148434]

The Solicitor-General: All Ministers have a responsibility to reduce the incidence of fraud in Departments and agencies for which they have responsibility.

In addition the Government have accepted the main recommendations of the Fraud Review, which include the development and delivery of a national fraud strategy, through the establishment of a National Fraud Strategic Authority and measurement unit. It is envisaged that the national fraud strategy will cover both the public and private sectors.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist farmers in Afghanistan who were once involved in cultivation of opium. [147147]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID is implementing a range of programmes to assist farmers who were once involved with cultivation of poppy. Our core approach is to improve access to credit, while improving the range and viability of alternative legal livelihoods.

Alternatives to poppy come not only in the form of different crops. They can often be non-farm activities such as clothes-making and shopkeeping, which is why DFID is supporting the Government of Afghanistan's Microfinance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA). This programme has provided over £133 million worth of small loans to 364,786 Afghan families to help them invest in their own licit businesses. MISFA operates in 23 provinces, including Helmand. DFID has provided £15 million to MISFA since March 2004. Nearly 75 per cent. of those receiving loans are women.

Overall, DFID has provided £77 million from 2005-07 to support the development of legal rural livelihoods, much of which has been channelled through the Government of Afghanistan's own National Priority Programmes.

DFID has given £18 million to the Government of Afghanistan's National Rural Access Programme (NRAP), which has built or repaired over 9,000 km of roads so far—essential for rural farmers to access markets. So far the programme has generated over 13 million days of labour for Afghans. NRAP operates in all 34 provinces.

DFID has also provided £42.6 million in total for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) and is providing £10.6 million to roll out NSP in Helmand province (2006-09). NSP is helping elected Community Development Councils (CDCs), representing over 17,000 communities across Afghanistan, identify development priorities in their areas and then receive grants to undertake the work. NSP has funded over 28,000 projects in agriculture, education, health, irrigation, power supply, transport, and water supply. NSP currently operates in all 34 provinces.

Outside the Government of Afghanistan, DFID is funding two projects implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, which are supporting villages in Bamyan, Balkh and Herat to make a legal living. The activities they support include poultry and fish rearing, silk production, and carpet weaving. DFID has also provided £3 million to support research into a range of legal livelihoods, including high value crops such as mint and saffron.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how UK funds previously directed through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Burma are being allocated since the closure of ICRC offices in Burma. [147986]

Mr. Malik: In 2006 DFID allocated £500,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Burma, approximately two-thirds of which was used to provide humanitarian and protection assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Eastern Burma. All of these funds have been spent and accounted for. The ICRC has not requested further funding. In 2007 DFID is providing support to internally displaced people in Burma through a grant of £400,000 to support community-based groups (mostly Christian and Buddhist networks) working inside Burma who are able to provide humanitarian assistance in the short term to IDPs who would otherwise receive no help. This complements the assistance to IDPs cross-border from Thailand which we also support.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147333]

Mr. Malik: 225 members of staff in the Department for International Development (12 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

DFID plans to issue annual benefit statements later in the year, the statements show the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

In addition, DFID has a page dedicated to Civil Service Pensions on our intranet site, this contains information on the pension schemes and the aim is to increase awareness of pensions among our staff. As well as useful pension information, the page contains links to the Civil Service Pensions website and various information booklets.

Indian Ocean Tsunami: Reconstruction

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress in reconstruction in Sri Lanka following the 2004 tsunami. [147971]

Mr. Malik: In January 2007 almost all children in affected areas apart from the North East are attending school. Attendance in the North and East is now severely affected by the security situation. Almost all families previously in camps now have access to sturdier transitional shelter. Of the families whose homes were affected, 72 per cent. are now back in their own houses following reconstruction and repair work. Over 75 per cent. of people who lost their main source of income have regained some source of income.

Permanent homes are under construction. Prior to the tsunami the public sector normally built only 5,000-6,000 new homes. Only with all public and private sector housing workers performing at full capacity would a 50,000 annual target be reached. According to Sri Lankan Government figures about 98 per cent. of the permanent housing requirement in the south has been fulfilled, although in the east of Sri Lanka there are still significant shortfalls.

The resurgence in the conflict has meant severe access restrictions for delivery partners in the North and East, which was the most affected region. Moving materials and skilled labour has become particularly problematic. Lack of humanitarian space has made it difficult to ensure that assistance is delivered equitably and in a timely manner to affected communities. UK officials will continue to work closely with the Sri Lankan authorities, NGOs and UN. We see progress towards peace and reconciliation as essential to enabling and sustaining post tsunami recovery and broader development in Sri Lanka. We hope that all parties will renew efforts to make progress in this direction.

DFID has focussed its policy during the reconstruction phase on improving the capacity of partner governments to mobilise resources and undertake reconstruction efforts themselves.

In Sri Lanka we have provided £2 million to improve the management of recovery and reconstruction, with a focus on building the capacity of the north and eastern councils in Sri Lanka.

Nepal

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department is providing to help the peace process in Nepal. [147133]

Mr. Malik: DFID is providing specific support to the Nepal peace process through its bilateral development programme and through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). In 2006-07 a total of £5.35 million was disbursed in direct support of the peace process. This included financial support to the Peace Trust Fund, the UN mission in Nepal, UNICEF, OCHA and support to ICRC.

We plan to provide further support in 2007-08 in line with Government priorities and during the run up to Constituent Assembly elections currently scheduled for November 2007.

The central objective of DFID strategy in Nepal is to work towards a sustainable and inclusive peace. In 2006-07 total DFID bilateral expenditure in Nepal was £42.8 million. This support is making a direct contribution to supporting peace in Nepal.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147607]

Ms Harman: None.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Office in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146983]

Ms Harman: Following the recent machinery of Government changes which saw the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons transfer from the Privy Council Office to the Cabinet Office, we are currently unable to provide a substantive answer to this question.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146922]

Ms Harman: None. All the staff in my private office are high achievers.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what estimate she has made of the number of her office staff using public transport to commute. [147314]

Ms Harman: All of my staff regularly use public transport to commute.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147045]

Ms Harman: The number of Leader of the House of Commons staff with periods of sick absence lasting less than five days for the calendar year 2006 are as follows:

	Number
(a) five or more absences	0
(b) four absences	0
(c) three absences	2
(d) two absences	0

Parliamentary Questions: Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Leader of the House what arrangements have been made for hon. Members to question the Olympics Minister. [148084]

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to establish an oral question time for the Minister for the Olympics and London to answer questions on her responsibilities. [147941]

Ms Harman: On 4 July 2007 I confirmed the new questions rota until the summer recess. This includes 10 minutes to the Olympics Minister. The rota will be reviewed during the summer recess.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Construction

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of council houses which will be built in 2007-08. [147864]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the large scale resumption of building council houses; and if she will make a statement. [147867]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Local councils have a vital role in the delivery of more social and affordable housing, working in partnership with developers and housing associations, using to the full their planning and other powers, and the use of their own land, to deliver the homes needed locally.

We are encouraging innovative ideas from local authorities to increase the supply and improve the quality of social housing, including through more direct development.

We expect housing associations to continue to deliver the majority of new social homes, as they can bring in significant additional independent borrowing. But we also see the potential for local authorities to make a bigger contribution towards meeting the housing needs of current and future generations.

Council Housing: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council homes were built in Essex in each year since 1997. [147369]

Yvette Cooper: There have been no reported local authority dwellings built in Essex local authorities since 1997.

Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006, the following units of affordable housing (social rent and intermediate (e.g. low cost home ownership)) were built or acquired on behalf of Essex local authorities and the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

	Essex county council	*Southend-on-Sea*	*Thurrock*
1997-98	243	50	16
1998-99	130	36	6
1999-2000	43	11	2
2000-01	77	6	4
2001-02	60	—	3
2002-03	145	16	6
2003-04	175	12	19
2004-05	176	44	29
2005-06	354	92	102

Essex county council local authorities comprise of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are waiting for council homes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the London borough of Havering. [147408]

Yvette Cooper: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the London borough of Havering as at 1 April each year is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the Government's target is for numbers of new council homes to be built in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Romford; [147368]

(2) how many new council homes are planned to be built in the London borough of Havering in the next period for which figures are available. [147385]

Yvette Cooper: There are no Government targets for the provision of new council home in Essex or Romford.

The East of England Plan, the Regional Spatial Strategy, is expected to be published in autumn 2007 and states that a minimum of 98,620 new homes will be built in Essex between April 2006 and March 2021—with the expectation that some 35 per cent. are affordable. The London Plan, the Regional Spatial Strategy for London, sets a 10 year target for the London borough of Havering of 5,350 net additional homes between 2007-08 and 2016-17. There is a strategic target in the London Plan that 50 per cent. of all additional housing London-wide should be affordable.

Council Housing: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of discount on council homes was in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England when bought under the right-to-buy scheme in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [147404]

Yvette Cooper: The average market values and levels of discount awarded on council homes sold through the right to buy scheme, in Essex, England and the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock are tabulated as follows, Essex county council local authorities comprise of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford.

Financial data on homes sold through the right to buy scheme: Estimated average per dwelling

		Discount	
Financial year	*Market value (£)*	*£*	*Percentage*
2003-04			
Essex CC	98,986	33,197	34
Southend-on-Sea UA	95,204	32,531	34
Thurrock UA	97,994	33,031	34
England	66,840	24,635	37
2004-05			
Essex CC	105,029	33,545	32
Southend-on-Sea UA	92,613	33,452	36
Thurrock UA	111,000	33,469	30
England	77,176	25,652	33
2005-06			
Essex CC	117,776	34,115	29
Southend-on-Sea UA	94,500	32,500	34
Thurrock UA	116,108	33,405	29
England	83,474	25,549	31

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities (P1B)

Emergency Services: Floods

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what duty fire and rescue authorities are under to respond to calls for assistance from the general public to incidents of flooding. [147753]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities have a general power to respond to emergencies under section 11 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004: this encompasses responding to calls for assistance to flooding incidents.

Fire and rescue authorities have duties to conduct risk assessments of their area as part of their integrated risk management plan process, and under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. If they conclude there is a flooding risk in their area they may procure resources to respond to that risk. In practice, fire and rescue authorities do respond to flooding incidents, as demonstrated so clearly in the June floods. Great use was made by the fire and rescue service of the high volume pumps, provided under Communities and Local Government's New Dimension programme.

Fire Services: ICT

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the relevant experience held by the contractors designing the new computer systems for the proposed regional fire and rescue control centre in the East of England in the design and delivery of projects funded by the public purse. [146791]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The contractor is EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd.

Their relevant experience, as evaluated as part of the procurement process, is detailed in the following table.

Country	Summary of works	Key features
Estonia - Ministry of Interior	Design and infrastructure deployment for border surveillance.	Various remote radar system installations connected to regional and national security centres.
France – French Gendarmerie	Design and implementation of national wireless voice and data communications system for Gendarmerie and special forces along with an associated logistical support programme.	Encrypted radio communications, secure identification systems, national control rooms.
France - Ministry of Defence	Design and implementation of unmanned aerial Vehicle (UAV) "tracker" systems for border and hot-spot surveillance and command and control tactical systems for mobile patrol deployment.	Silent running short-range UAV automatic video surveillance system, CIS, Integrated voice and data communications.
France - Ministry of Interior	Design and implementation of multi-agency integrated dispatching and communication system for fire services and police forces.	Digital radio communications. control rooms, automatic vehicle location through GPS, GIS.
Germany - Ministry of Defence	Design and implementation of an operational battalion Command and Control system.	Advanced CIS, messaging. Automatic vehicle location, digital radio communications
Germany - Ministry of interior of Different Landers	Design and implementation of major integration programmes between the police and fire brigades control centres in Frankfurt and Munich	Emergency call taking, dispatching, resource management, Computer aided dispatch, CIS (geographical Information system), communications (voice and data), video monitoring centre
Mexico – Federal Government and States	Design and implementation of a national forces integrated communications network, uniting the 30 states into a single unified network.	Encrypted radio communications, secure identification systems, national control rooms
Mexico - Secretaria de la Defensa Nacional(SEDENA)	Design and implementation of a sophisticated network of sensor monitoring systems integrated with the national SEDENA Command and Control Centre for reduction of illegal activities, such as smuggling.	CIS, fixed radars (high and low altitude), airborne sensors, data mining, communications, resource management
Portugal - Ministry of Interior	Design and implementation of coastal vessel monitoring system	Various remote radar and other sensor systems connected to resilient national control centre.
Spain - Police and Guardia Civil	Design and implementation of a coordinated local/national communication and deployment system for more effective operational management.	National infrastructure backbone, digital radio communications, control rooms, automatic vehicle location systems
UK - Ministry of Defence	Design and build secure communications satellite system	Skynet satellites, ground control stations, upgraded communication systems

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the delivery of software and information systems for the regional fire control centres. [147507]

Mr. Dhanda: The contract for delivery of software and information systems was signed on 30 March 2007 with EADS Defence and Security Systems Ltd. The contractor is mobilising resources and working closely with the Department to ensure successful delivery of this important project. The contract has a series of delivery milestones; so far, the contractor has met all that are due. The first Regional Control Centre is planned to go live in October 2009 and the final Fire and Rescue Authority cuts over in September 2011.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in full-time equivalent terms will be required for each Regional Fire Control Centre. [147508]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1858-59W.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how she intends to resource those tasks currently undertaken by staff in existing fire control centres which will not be handled by new regional centres. [147509]

Mr. Dhanda: Some tasks which are currently performed in existing control rooms will lie outside the scope of the new regional control centres. It is for Fire and Rescue Authorities to decide whether these 'out of scope' tasks should continue to be performed under the new control arrangements, and how best to deliver them. The business case for the FiReControl project shows that the costs of delivering a control service under FiReControl should be substantially lower than at present. The business case takes into account the costs of continuing to deliver these 'out of scope' tasks.

Fire Services: Procurement

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total costs have been incurred by Firebuy since its launch as the procurement arm of the fire and rescue service in November 2005 in *(a)* salaries for its full-time staff,

(b) expenses for its non-executive chair and board of directors and *(c)* on work on the Integrated Clothing Project. [146695]

Mr. Dhanda: The costs incurred by Firebuy Ltd. since it was established in April 2006 until the end of June 2007 are *(a)* £1,099,877 for salaries for the full-time staff, *(b)* £11,092 on expenses for the non-executive chair and board of directors and *(c)* £1,047,124 for the Integrated Clothing Project, including salary costs associated with the project.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the preferred bidder proposals for Firebuy's first 15-year Integrated Clothing Project contract; what steps she is taking to ensure continuous best value for the fire and rescue service from that contract; and if she will make a statement. [146696]

Mr. Dhanda: Detailed assessments have been undertaken by Firebuy Ltd. in the decision to award the contract for Integrated Clothing Project to a single service provider for 15 years. These included economic viability, service delivery, independent garment trials and best value.

Best value encompasses the principles of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) and considers the whole life costs as well as the purchasing price. The kit offers improvements in firefighter safety as well as making a positive contribution towards reducing barriers to recruitment and achieving efficiencies as part of the overall Government agenda.

Fire Services: Trade Unions

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the proposed regional fire and rescue control centre in the East of England; and what discussions she has had with the Fire Brigades Union on the matter. [146794]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Since the publication of the White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service" in June 2003 the Department has had representations about the proposed regional fire and rescue control centres from a wide range of stakeholders, including all English Fire and Rescue Authorities, Regional Management Boards, the Local Government Association, the Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Institute of Public Finance, the Practitioners' Forum, the Business and Community Safety Forum, the Fire Brigades Union, Network of Women in the Fire and Rescue Service, the Retained Firefighters Union, Fire Officers Association, GMB and Unison. Responses to the various consultation exercises run by the Department can be found on the web at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1125649

A number of very positive and useful meetings have taken place, at both ministerial and official level, with the Fire Brigades Union and other staff representation bodies to discuss the implications for staff of the Fire Control Project.

Flood Control

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of building houses on run off and flash flooding areas; and if she will make a statement. [146213]

Yvette Cooper: New planning policy (PPS25 Development and flood risk) published in December 2006 directs development away from areas at risk of flooding from all sources. Local planning authorities should undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in line with PPS25 policy to identify the risks from all forms of flooding (including surface water run-off). Where there are particular surface water drainage problems they should use the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the development of surface water management plans, as part of their Local Development Frameworks, to manage the risks through development opportunities and avoid inappropriate development in those areas. Some of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pilot studies on integrated urban drainage are examining the consequences of new development for surface water run-off and the options available for mitigating these effects.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider making it a condition of section 106 planning agreements to improve drainage in order to reduce the effect of flash flooding in areas that have been affected; and if she will make a statement. [146214]

Yvette Cooper: New planning policy (PPS25 Development and flood risk) published in December 2006 promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems and development of surface water management plans. Planning obligations (or 's106 planning agreements') are mechanisms to allow developers and local planning authorities to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. Where the need to improve drainage to reduce the risk of flooding is a material consideration, a planning obligation may be an appropriate mechanism to secure the agreement of the developer to undertake the necessary drainage improvements. The construction and maintenance costs of surface water drainage systems serving a development should be fully funded by the developer, and a planning obligation may be appropriate to secure this.

Floods: Chemicals

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons Annex D of Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk included a list of substances classed as hazards under the Chemical Hazards Information and Packaging Regulations; and what related consultation was carried out: [148047]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of storage facilities for materials classed as hazardous under the Chemical Hazards Information and Packaging Regulations located in Flood Risk Zone 3 areas. [148048]

John Healey: Annex D of PPS25 does not list substances classed as hazards under the Chemical Hazards Information and Packaging Regulations. However it classifies installations requiring hazardous substances consent as 'highly vulnerable', potentially limiting their location in areas of high flood risk. This was set out to help planners match the vulnerability of development to the degree of flood risk to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas.

There was wide consultation in preparing PPS25, and the Department continues to work closely with stakeholders to implement the policy to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas at highest risk, while recognising that where the need for development clearly outweighs the flood risk, it is safe.

No central estimate of the number and percentage of storage facilities for such materials in Flood Zone 3 areas is available.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether clients of property location agents will be required to put a home information pack in place; and if she will make a statement. [146663]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Act 2004 makes it clear that the responsibility to obtain a home information pack is on the person responsible for marketing the property. Section 150 of the Housing Act 2005 states that a person, or business located in England or Wales, acts as an estate agent if he does anything in pursuance of marketing instructions from the seller to carry out activities designed to introduce a potential buyer to the seller or to sell the property by auction.

Housing Associations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government affordable housing schemes administered by housing associations are in operation. [147968]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (UIN 147377).

Housing: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new dwellings were built in the Chelmsford local authority area in each year between 2000 and 2007. [146652]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The numbers of new dwellings built in the Chelmsford local authority area in each financial year since 2000-01 are in the following table. Figures shown are as reported by local authorities.

House building completions: Chelmsford

	Dwellings
2000-01	542
2001-02	519
2002-03	838
2003-04	863
2004-05	764
2005-06	440
2006-07	533

Sources: P2m returns from local authorities, returns from National Housebuilding Council (NHBC)

Housing Construction: Eco-towns

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the contribution of the five planned eco-towns towards the Government's target of building 200,000 net additional homes per year by 2013. [146393]

Yvette Cooper: Eco-towns will be key to delivering the Government's target of building additional homes. Further decisions about the programme, including potential funding support, more detailed criteria, and potential locations will be taken following detailed assessment work, and the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. We hope to announce these later this year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the 10,000 to 20,000 new homes in each planned eco-town will be social homes. [146401]

Yvette Cooper: Eco-towns, as announced in the Government statement of 7 March 2007, should be sustainable communities, supporting a mix of housing types and tenure. Subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review decisions about the programme, including potential locations and the proportion of social housing will be taken following further assessment work. We hope to make an announcement about these later in the year.

Housing: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the number of dwellings sold in Cornwall, broken down into those sold *(a)* as second homes, *(b)* for buy-to-let, *(c)* to Cornish inhabitants and *(d)* to people moving into Cornwall in the last 12 months. [146645]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Housing: Electricity and Water

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households do not have access to *(a)* mains power and *(b)* piped water supply. [146167]

Yvette Cooper: The English House Condition Survey monitors the provision of basic amenities and services to homes. However the numbers of homes lacking mains power and piped water supply is too small to provide precise estimates from a sample survey. A

residual number of mainly isolated rural homes may lack mains power or piped water supply, as do some vacant properties that are waiting or undergoing renovation at the time of the survey.

Housing: Energy

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes in England do not have any cavity walls. [146281]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* 31 per cent. according to the 2005 English House Condition Survey Annual Report (Table 4.1, page 28) published on 6 June 2007.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings built in Chelmsford between 2000 and 2007 were classified as affordable housing. [146653]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2006, in Chelmsford, 850 units of affordable housing were built or acquired. Affordable housing includes both social rent and intermediate housing (e.g. low cost home ownership). Figures on affordable housing supply in 2006-07 are not yet available.

Source: Statistical returns from local authorities (P2, HSSA), Housing corporation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government-run affordable housing schemes, administered by housing associations, are in operation. [147377]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation provides Social Housing Grant under section 18 of the Housing Act 1996 and Section 27 of the Housing Act 2004 to housing associations and other bodies to provide affordable housing. This grant is used to provide both social rented homes and those for sale on low cost home ownership terms. Homes provided can be new build or acquired and refurbished.

The Government' HomeBuy programme offers three low cost home ownership products based on equity sharing. All three are administered by HomeBuy Agents, who are Housing Associations that provide a one-stop shop for Low Cost Home Ownership products, with Government funding provided by the Housing Corporation.

Social HomeBuy enables tenants of local authorities and housing associations to buy a share in their current home at a discount. New Build HomeBuy (including the First Time Buyer' Initiative) enables people to buy a share of a newly built property, while paying rent on the unowned share, and Open Market HomeBuy enables people to buy a property on the open market with the help of equity loans.

There is also an 'intermediate rent' option for eligible individuals that cannot sustain the costs of home ownership, even on our low cost schemes. People can rent a new build property on an assured shorthold tenancy and pay rent at a level between that charged by social and private landlords.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to create an Affordable Housing Strategy Group; and if she will make a statement. [147873]

Yvette Cooper: The Department already meets regularly with stakeholder groups which discuss affordable housing. We keep these arrangements under review.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of key workers living in the Peterborough city council area. [144066]

Yvette Cooper: The Department does not hold data on the number of key workers living in the Peterborough city council area.

However, since April 2004, 43 key workers in Peterborough city council have received assistance through the Government's key worker housing programme, Key Worker Living (KWL). KWL is one element of the Government's HomeBuy scheme which will expand the opportunity for home ownership to over 120,000 households by 2010.

Housing: Utilities

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for planning permission in respect of houses designed to be operated unconnected to mains electricity, gas and water supply there have been since 1997; and of these how many were *(a)* approved without an appeal and *(b)* rejected. [146790]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Key Worker Living Scheme: Civil Servants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants are eligible for the key worker discount on housing; and how many have used the discount over the last five years. [148347]

Yvette Cooper: None. Civil servants working within Government Departments are not classed as key workers for the purposes of the key worker living scheme.

Landlords: East Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of absentee private landlords in *(a)* Pendle and *(b)* east Lancashire; and how many there were in (i) 2002 and (ii) 1997. [145740]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no estimate of the number of absentee private landlords in Pendle or east Lancashire or how many there were in 2002 and 1997. This is an issue for Pendle and the other authorities in east Lancashire to consider.

Landlords: Licensing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have brought in schemes to license private landlords in designated areas. [145741]

Mr. Iain Wright: Four local authorities, Salford, Middlesbrough, Manchester and Gateshead, have brought in schemes under powers within the Housing Act 2004 to license private landlords in designated areas.

Mobile Homes: Surveys

Mr. Osten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were surveyed in the Park Homes Commission Consultation; and how many votes were cast for each of the three proposed options. [147025]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The consultation paper on the Park Home Commission Rate was published on 10 May 2006. It was sent directly to all key stakeholders and was publicised within the sector. It sought comments on options for reforming the commission payable on the sale of a mobile home. This was a consultation exercise rather than a vote.

We received 1,250 responses to the consultation. The number of responses that supported each option were:

Option 1. No change to the current maximum rate of 10 per cent.—161 responses.

Option 2. A reduction in the maximum commission rate payable for new and existing agreements from 10 per cent. to 7.5 per cent. with a prohibition on a compensatory increase in pitch fees—834 responses.

Option 3. Reducing the maximum rate of commission on the sale of a park home for new agreements to 0 per cent. without a limitation on a compensatory increase in pitch fees—eight responses.

In addition, the consultation paper explained that we favoured the option of a lower commission rate (7.5 per cent.) with no increase in pitch fees for existing agreements while prohibiting the charging of a commission and placing no limitation on a compensatory increase in pitch fees for new agreements. Only one respondent supported this option.

218 respondents suggested alternative proposals and 28 respondents did not give a view on any option.

Multiple Occupation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the quality of information gathering and collation of data on houses in multiple occupation by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [146747]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Department has worked closely over the past 12 months with local authorities in England in the development of a data collection system for houses in multiple occupation, the register of licensable houses in multiple occupation (ROLHMO). This commenced operation in April 2007 and data has been collected from May. It is, therefore, too early to make an assessment of the system's effectiveness. However, the Department is keeping the system under review.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the toolkit of good practice guidance for local authorities in respect of houses in multiple occupation to be available for use; and if she will make a statement. [146748]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Department has resourced the local authorities coordinators of regulatory services to provide practical advice and assistance to local authorities on private sector housing provisions in the Housing Act 2004, including licensing of houses in multiple occupation. The Department funded the Chartered Institute of Housing to produce a toolkit—The Ways and Means Report—to assist local authorities in their application of the powers under the Act. The Department will be publishing non-statutory guidance on the licensing provisions in the Act during the summer, to reflect best practice in light of local authorities' experiences since implementation in April 2006.

Planning Permission

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were approved against Environment Agency advice in each year since 2000. [148336]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following data on planning applications permitted by local planning authorities contrary to Environment Agency advice are contained in the report to Communities and Local Government and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs prepared annually by the Environment Agency and Local Government Association on the impact of the technical advice given to English local planning authorities: No comparable data is available before 2001.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Applications permitted by LPAs contrary to Environment Agency advice[1]	283	221	323	248	136
Major applications permitted contrary to Environment Agency advice[2]	50	24	21	29	10

[1] Permitted contrary to sustained objections by the Environment Agency, or with conditions which only partially met/mitigated EA concerns.
[2] Major development is defined in this report as one in which the number of dwellings to be constructed is 10 or more, or the site area is equal to or greater than 0.5 Ha. Non residential developments are defined as major if they involve a floor space equal to or greater than 1,000m², or a site area equal or greater than 1 Ha.
Figures from 2006 High Level Target 5 (HLT5) report

To set these figures in context the following table gives the percentage of applications permitted by local planning authorities against Environment Agency objection (from table 3 of the 2006 HLT 5 report).

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Percentage of applications permitted by LPAs against Environment Agency objection[1]	38	11	12	8	5

[1] Decisions made by LPAs (where they notified the Environment Agency) permitted contrary to sustained objections by the Environment Agency, or with conditions which only partially met/mitigated EA concerns.

Since 2001 there has been a significant fall in the number and percentage of planning applications which has been permitted against sustained Environment Agency advice. 95 per cent. of planning decisions on applications in flood risk areas to which the Environment Agency had objected were in line with the Environment Agency's advice compared with 62 per cent. in 2001-02.

In 2001 Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 (PPG25) was published in response to the floods of Easter 1998 and autumn 2000. These figures reflect the positive impact that PPG25 has had, but also support consultation which showed that while PPG25 had succeeded in raising the profile of flooding in the planning process more was needed to get planning authorities to implement its core policy. Responding to this, we published the new, stronger Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) in December last year to replace PPG25.

Planning Policy Statement 25

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications subject to Planning Policy Statement 25 were referred to the Secretary of State in each year since 2000; and how many of them were subsequently approved. [148333]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not separately record how many of the planning applications that have been called in by the Secretary of State were referred because of issues relating to Planning Policy Statement 25.

Planning: Recycling

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will issue guidance to planning authorities on the provision of recycling points in new developments. [147389]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our planning policies on waste management are set out in Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10). These state that planning authorities should ensure new development makes sufficient provision for waste management and promote designs and layouts that secure integration of waste management facilities without adverse impact on the street scene or, in less developed areas, the local landscape. The standard application form for planning applications, which comes into use across England in October, will require developers to set out the arrangements made for the separate storage and collection of recyclable waste.

PPS10 also highlights that good design and layout in new development can help secure opportunities for sustainable waste management, including matters relating to kerbside collection and community recycling. The Manual for Streets, a joint publication by the Department for Transport and Communities and Local Government, provides practical advice for designers.

Rented Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the building of housing for rent by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [147872]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W.

Squatting

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases of squatting were reported by local authorities in England between June 2006 and June 2007. [146194]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to regional government offices and the Planning Inspectorate on the content of local authority core strategies for waste disposal. [146784]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* A comprehensive guidance document has recently been produced by the Planning Inspectorate and is available on their website. This draws out the lessons learnt from examining over 100 development plan documents, the majority of which have been core strategies. The Planning Inspectorate's document incorporates a note provided by Communities and Local Government on the waste content of core strategies. The note sits within the policy framework provided by extant planning policy statements (in particular, PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management and PPS12 Local Development Frameworks) and their supporting practice guidance. Government offices and inspectors who will undertake the examination of development plan documents have had the guidance document drawn to their attention.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many mosquito nets are available to troops in Afghanistan; and how many are required; [147803]

(2) how often mosquito nets provided to troops deployed in Afghanistan are replaced. [147804]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the past year, some 25,000 individual nets have been provided to support operations in Afghanistan. This number is sufficient to meet requirements.

A mosquito net is issued to each individual deploying to Afghanistan, suitable for use when sleeping in field conditions. They are designed to be used for one deployment and are disposed of locally. A new net will be issued if the same individual deploys again. In the event that a net is damaged, for whatever reason, a new one is issued in theatre.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been purchased for grenade machine-guns since they have been in use; and how many of them have been provided to troops in Afghanistan. [147807]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately 160,000 rounds of ammunition have been purchased for grenade machine guns since they came into use. This includes ammunition for operations and training.

I am withholding details of how much ammunition has been delivered to Afghanistan as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. In-theatre stocks of ammunition, however, are currently assessed as adequate.

Alderman Blaxill School: Closures

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions officials in his Department have had with Essex Local Education Authority on the proposed closure of the Alderman Blaxill School in Colchester; and if he will make a statement; [147865]

(2) what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with Essex Local Education Authority on the involvement of the Ministry of Defence in the establishment of a city academy in Colchester; and if he will make a statement. [147866]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Officials from Colchester Garrison were briefed on 26 June by Essex county council on issues relating to the placing of Alderman Blaxill School in special measures. At the meeting Essex county council also confirmed that a full consultation process will be implemented in the autumn concerning the proposals for an academy in Colchester and the MOD as an interested party will be invited to participate.

Armed Forces: Training

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress he has made on the Defence Training Review since his statement of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 787-802, on Defence Training Review; and if he will make a statement; [147275]

(2) when he expects to sign the Maingate contract for the Defence Training Review rationalisation project; [147276]

(3) when he expects to take a decision on making the provisional preferred bidder for package 2 of the Defence Training Review programme the preferred bidder. [147277]

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will make an assessment on the outcome of the Whole Programme Solution negotiations with regard to the Defence Training Rationalisation Programme. [146845]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* In January this year the Metrix Consortium were declared the Preferred Bidder for Package 1 of the DTR Programme, but in view of significant remaining affordability challenges, only Provisional Preferred Bidder for Package 2. Our aim has been to develop a Whole Programme Solution (WPS) by exploring with the Bidder possible synergies and economies of scale across the whole Programme.

Although significant work has been completed since January we are not yet in a position to confirm whether or not the WPS can be made affordable. We still plan to make a further announcement later this year.

Army Board

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of claims made for expenses by the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff and *(c)* Army Board in 2006. [127567]

Derek Twigg: The personal claims made by members of the Army Board for reimbursement of expenses incurred in relation to official duties in 2006 are shown in the following table. These figures do not include those costs attributed directly to Ministry of Defence budgets covering, for example, official travel and entertainment activities.

Board member	*Total (£)*
SofS	0
Min(AF)	0
Min(DES)	0
USofS	75.60
CGS	2,429.53
2nd PUS	388.70
CinC Land	1,059.28
AG	226.45
ACGS	548.55
QMG	1,039
MGO	[1]140
GOCNI	2,987.76

[1] Claims cover a period of six months only and relate to the current incumbent of this position. Information relating to the previous incumbent has not been retained.

Army: ICT

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many laptop computers are available to *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks in the army. [147805]

Derek Twigg: Precise information is not held centrally but it is estimated that around 8,000 laptop computers are currently in use across the Army as a whole.

The implementation of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)) programme includes an initial provision of some 4,000 laptops for use by the Army. Further incremental provision may add a further 10,000 laptops. The allocation of laptops may

be made to a named individual for his or her sole use, regardless of rank, or to a single point of contact within a team for use by any member of that team.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes he intends to make to the availability of laptop computers to the army to facilitate the new system of pay. [147806]

Derek Twigg: The Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) programme is modernizing the way the services carry out personnel and pay administration. Laptops are one of a number of devices which have been provided to enable service personnel to access JPA which as one of its functions, requires input of information for pay purposes. The need for access to the JPA system is determined in detail on a site-by-site basis and the most appropriate solution has been supplied in each case.

Clyde Submarine Base

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he will consider the recommendations of the naval base review in respect of Faslane, when published, from the point of view of his role as *(a)* Secretary of State for Defence and *(b)* Secretary of State for Scotland; and if he will make a statement on resolving potential conflicts of interest. [147521]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* Defence is a reserved matter and, as such, all decisions relating to military capability, including the naval base review, are taken on the basis of what is best for defence and what provides value for money for the taxpayer.

Departments: Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by staff in his Department via departmental *(a)* credit, *(b)* procurement and *(c)* fuel cards in each of the last three years. [145289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information extracted from the Financial Management Shared Service Centre database covering spend on departmental credit, procurement and fuel cards in each of the last three financial years is set out below.

In November 2006, the MOD withdrew its Corporate Credit Card facility and replaced it with the Government Procurement Card. The credit card figures provided in the following table reflect this policy decision and show payments for and the Corporate Credit Card up to December 2006 only.

Government procurement card spend

Financial year	*Payments (£)*[1]
2004-05	168,594,451
2005-06	202,499,078
2006-07	218,631,506

[1] Including VAT.

Fuel card spend

Financial year	*Payments (£)*[1]
2004-05	17,552,800
2005-06	20,265,338
2006-07	20,571,169

[1] Including VAT.

Credit card spend

Financial year	*Payments (£)*[1]
2004-05	14,045,907
2005-06	14,976,250
2006-07[2]	4,246,626

[1] Including VAT.
[2] Up to December 2006.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 168W, on departments: manpower, whether any staff in his Department are classified as people without posts. [146889]

Derek Twigg: The Department operates a successful system of redeployment for staff who became surplus and ensures that those staff are given priority consideration for posts for which they are suitable and apply. Information on those classified as without a post is not held centrally.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147051]

Derek Twigg: The information for 2006 is shown in the following table:

Number of occurrences less than five days	*Non-industrial headcount*	*Industrial headcount*
Two periods	8,460	1,860
Three periods	4,930	1,120
Four periods	2,720	580
Five or more periods	3,400	680

Notes:
1. Figures listed above have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data used exclude Royal Fleet Auxiliary staff and Locally Engaged Civilians for whom sickness absence data are not available.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 845W, on Hercules aircraft, what percentage of Hercules C-130K aircraft has *(a)* returned to the front line within 44 days and *(b)* developed fuel leaks following the installation of the foam; and if he will make a statement. [140664]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In order to improve overall aircraft availability to the Front Line Command (FLC), the Hercules C-130K Explosion Suppressant Foam (ESF) modification has been combined with scheduled maintenance wherever possible. All of the aircraft that have been fitted with ESF in conjunction

with scheduled maintenance have been returned to the FLC within an agreed timeframe. One aircraft was modified on a standalone programme and the fitment of ESF was completed in 46 days.

Of the C-130Ks that have been modified with ESF, 75 per cent. have subsequently developed fuel leaks. However, all were repaired by the contractor under warranty and returned to flying. RAF Hercules aircraft are designed and certified to strict airworthiness and safety standards. These fuel leaks did not compromise the safety of the aircraft.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when definition of *(a)* torture and *(b)* abuse he uses in the context of the activities of British armed forces in Iraq; and what account he took of the advice of the Attorney General in formulating this definition. [147891]

Des Browne: The definition of torture derives from section 134 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 which makes it an offence for a public official to commit torture. Article 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture outlines what is considered torture for the purposes of the convention. We are also guided by, among other sources, judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and those of our own domestic courts.

Peace Keeping Operations: Casualties

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injured British service personnel were returned from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last 12 months. [148158]

Derek Twigg: The number of personnel who are returned from Iraq and Afghanistan following injury or illness (aeromedically evacuated) is published on the Ministry of Defence website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

This information is updated on a two-weekly basis in arrears and hence data for June 2007 are currently available only from 1 to 15 June.

Princess Royal Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to discuss the implementation of the recommendations from the Deepcut Review with Sir Nicholas Blake QC, in the period since its publication in March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [147065]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Subsequent to the publication of the Deepcut Review in March 2006, MOD officials and my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) engaged with Sir Nicholas Blake QC on the Government's response to the Review. They also subsequently corresponded on the Government's update to Parliament in a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 91-5WS, which set out the progress made on implementing the recommendations made in the Review.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will request publication of the contents of the Devon and Cornwall Police review into Surrey Police's handling of the investigation into the deaths at Deepcut Army Barracks; and if he will make a statement. [148013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This matter is being considered by the Information Commissioner and it would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment at this time.

Transport: AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was transported in the convoy which moved from AWE Burghfield to RAF Brize Norton on 11 June 2007; what the destination was of the transported goods; and what escorts for the convoy were in place. [147953]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's public service agreement target to increase significantly the take-up of arts opportunities by new users from priority groups; and what the change in numbers of users has been from each priority group over the period of the agreement. [147198]

Margaret Hodge: The baseline estimates against which progress will be measured were reported in December 2006. They are:

Attendance at two different types of arts events by priority groups during the past 12 months:

23.5 per cent. of people from black and minority ethnic groups;

24.1 per cent. of people with a limiting disability;

17.4 per cent. of people from lower socio-economic groups (C2DE).

Participation in two different types of arts activities by priority groups during the past 12 months:

20.8 per cent. of people from black and minority ethnic groups;

18.9 per cent. of people with a limiting disability;

15.3 per cent. of people from lower socio-economic groups (C2DE).

The first progress report was published on 29 June 2007, and showed no statistically significant change among any of the priority groups. Progress on the target will be monitored on a regular basis until the final assessment is available in late 2008.

Arts: National Lottery

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 June

2007, *Official Report*, column 39W, on Arts: National Lottery, how much National Lottery *(a)* heritage, *(b)* sport and *(c)* BLF funding (i) Northern Ireland, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) England received per capita in each of the last five years. [147487]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* The per capita figures for grants awarded during the last five completed financial years for Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England are set out in these tables. The population figures used are the mid-2005 estimates of the Office for National Statistics.

The Big Lottery Fund came into existence on 1 December 2006, although prior to that an administrative merger between the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) and the Community Fund had been operating. The figures given for the Big Lottery Fund include grants attributed to the Fund and exclude those attributed to NOF or the Community Fund.

The figures are derived from information submitted by the relevant distributors to the Department's National Lottery Grants Database as well as directly by some distributors, including UK Sport whose awards are included where they are attributable to a particular home country.

Heritage—Northern Ireland (population 1,724,400)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	10,894,821	6.32
2005-06	7,536,638	4.37
2004-05	11,963,362	6.94
2003-04	5,382,091	3.12
2002-03	11,285,160	6.54

Heritage—Scotland (population 5,094,800)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	35,986,791	7.06
2005-06	46,564,011	9.14
2004-05	64,535,252	12.67
2003-04	23,360,570	4.59
2002-03	29,590,624	5.81

Heritage—Wales (population 2,958,600)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	18,957,707	6.41
2005-06	11,649,479	3.94
2004-05	11,323,232	3.83
2003-04	11,204,658	3.79
2002-03	10,577,318	3.58

Heritage—England (population 50,431,700)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	223,717,357	4.44
2005-06	218,928,366	4.34
2004-05	252,430,588	5.01
2003-04	254,380,188	5.04
2002-03	258,303,181	5.12

Sport—Northern Ireland (population 1,724,400)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	6,290,344	3.65
2005-06	17,337,767	10.05
2004-05	4,139,361	2.40
2003-04	4,162,809	2.41
2002-03	3,543,945	2.06

Sport—Scotland (population 5,094,800)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	16,225,290	3.18
2005-06	13,209,236	2.59
2004-05	12,156,015	2.39
2003-04	17,165,448	3.37
2002-03	36,963,826	7.26

Sport—Wales (population 2,958,600)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	6,470,066	2.19
2005-06	7,044,432	2.38
2004-05	9,521,235	3.22
2003-04	14,994,549	5.07
2002-03	28,078,881	9.49

Sport—England (population 50,431,700)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	84,545,652	1.68
2005-06	99,930,061	1.98
2004-05	326,884,092	6.48
2003-04	144,703,932	2.87
2002-03	233,900,430	4.64

Big Lottery Fund—Northern Ireland (population 1,724,400)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	10,636,152	6.17
2005-06	247,846	0.14
2004-05	32,482	0.02
2003-04	0	0
2002-03	0	0

Big Lottery Fund—Scotland (population 5,094,800)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	35,458,529	6.96
2005-06	590,069	0.12
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2002-03	0	0

Big Lottery Fund—Wales (population 2,958,600)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	17,056,440	5.77
2005-06	615,295	0.21
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2002-03	0	0

Big Lottery Fund—England (population 50,431,700)

	Value of Grants (£)	*Per capita (£ and pence) rounded to nearest penny*
2006-07	167,900,058	3.33
2005-06	33,256,139	0.66
2004-05	225,986	0.00
2003-04	0	0
2002-03	0	0

The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 740W, on Big Lottery Fund, what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* percentage of Big Lottery fund grants to the voluntary and community sector have been made to charities registered with the Charity Commission in each of the last three years. [146811]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The information requested is as follows:

Year ending	*Percentage (monetary)*	*Percentage (awards)*
31 March 2005	76	57
31 March 2006	79	68
31 March 2007	71	58

These figures do not include Awards for All and Veterans, and the Charity Commission only covers England and Wales.

Departments: Buildings

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions his Department's offices were refurbished in each of the last five years; what work was carried out; and what the *(a)* original budget and *(b)* final cost was in each instance. [147199]

Margaret Hodge: In the last five years offices of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been refurbished as follows:

2-4 Cockspur street, London 2006-07

renewal of the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, fire alarm and under floor power;

replacement of the IT infrastructure, including a new data centre, and network and telephone cabling;

removal of cellular offices and new open plan layout, including decoration, carpets and construction of meeting rooms;

new furniture.

The agreed budget for the refurbishment project was £8.6 million, work is still in

progress and current expenditure is within budget. This includes removal costs associated with relocating staff from other DCMS buildings into Cockspur street.

Queen's Yard, Tottenham Court road London

Air conditioning;

Electrical works and cabling;

Fit-out;

New furniture.

The budget for the project was originally set at 186, 000 but with the final total cost amounting to £243, 898.25. This included costs associated with relocating staff from other DCMS buildings into Queen's Yard.

The overspend was due to the need to house additional staff in the building.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147598]

Margaret Hodge: In 2002 DCMS paid for two of its employees to attend the Common Purpose Spring Programme, at a total cost of £8,460 in order to further develop their leadership skills.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147530]

Margaret Hodge: 28 members of staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (5.34 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Information is also available in the departmental staff handbook about boosting your pension.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or underway. [148017]

Margaret Hodge: All DCMS PFI projects are local authority library and leisure projects to which DCMS allocate PFI credit. For contract costs please refer to the signed deals list on HM Treasury's website, http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm, which contains details of all PFI deals with the unitary charges stated.

Please note that unitary charge payments are projections covering more than the repayment of the capital value of a project and are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor.

All other procurement costs are borne by local authorities; DCMS do not have details of those budget costs.

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost was of all consultations held by his Department in the last 12 months. [148830]

Margaret Hodge: Over the 12 months to end June 2007, DCMS launched 36 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All consultations are available on the departmental website:

www.culture.gov.uk.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many consultants have been employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and *(c)* the Olympic Delivery Authority to work on the London 2012 Olympics in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) 2006-07. [145077]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not employed consultants to work on the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in the current financial year (2007-08). In 2006-07, my Department employed two consultancy firms on Games-related work.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) employed 53 consultancy firms in the last financial year 2006-07, adding one further consultancy firm to date in 2007-08 to reach a current total of 54.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is a privately funded commercial organisation and is therefore not obliged to make available this level of detail about their staffing arrangements.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department consulted Ministers at HM Treasury before approving the logo for the 2012 Olympics. [146535]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The development and approval of the new London 2012 brand was the responsibility of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) which is a privately funded organisation. I was invited by LOCOG to view the brand, of which the logo is one element, prior to its launch on 4 June. However, it was not for Government to approve the brand. DCMS did not consult HM Treasury about the brand prior to the launch.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, whether the cost review had reached its conclusions by 25 April 2006. [146539]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The cost review had not reached its conclusions by 25 April. Further work on specific areas of the budget continued to be undertaken.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, which other Ministers attended meetings of the cost review group chaired by the Minister for Sport; and which meetings each Minister attended. [146543]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

No other Ministers attended the cost review group chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn).

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1179W, on the Olympic Games, what output the cost review group produced. [146544]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The output of the cost review group was the identification of savings and potential savings in different areas of the budget. This work was taken forward to inform:

changes to the new Olympic Park Masterplan announced on 7 June 2006 and;

continuing work on the development of the costs package which I announced to the House on 15 March.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 1178W, on the Olympic Games, at which of the meetings *(a)* powerpoint and *(b)* oral presentations were given by KPMG on their work. [146751]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

KPMG made oral contributions on their work at the cost review group meetings as part of the discussions. They did not give powerpoint or formal presentations.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which sites have been identified in London to manage *(a)* building waste from and *(b)* refuse arising from or created as a consequence of the 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [146752]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

Waste is one of the five themes identified in the London 2012 Sustainability plan and is an important element of delivering a sustainable Games.

The Olympic Delivery Authority has committed to re-use or recycle 90 per cent. of material arising from demolition works and, to date, has achieved over 95 per cent. Building waste and refuse from construction of the Olympic Park will be subject to a tender process, as will refuse arising from the 2012 Games. Therefore, no sites have been identified at this time for refuse related to the Games. My officials are working with waste authorities to ensure that the needs of the Games are integrated with waste-infrastructure provision.

Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the change in the number of playing fields of an area of less than 0.4 hectares in each year since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [148825]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 421W. Figures for changes in 2005-06 will not be available until the autumn.

Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether representatives of *(a)* UK Sport, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* Youth Sport Trust and *(d)* English Institute of Sport plan to attend the Labour Party event at Wembley National Stadium on 12 July 2007. [147262]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* As my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Central (Richard Caborn) made clear in his reply to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1833W, these organisations will play no role in this event, including any official representations.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on progress in raising the £100 million from the private sector for elite sport announced in the 2006 Budget; and which Minister is responsible for that matter. [148083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government, supported by UK Sport, continue to consider ways in which to raise £100 million from the private sector to help support our most talented athletes. This is in dialogue with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for this matter.

Youth Sport Trust: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* current and *(b)* anticipated future budget of the Youth Sports Trust is; and from which sources it draws its funding. [147263]

Mr. Sutcliffe: *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Youth Sport Trust is not a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department and therefore receives no direct funding. It is a registered charity and as such draws its regular funding from a range of corporate sponsors and from a number of grant-making trusts and foundations. In its capacity as an important partner in the delivery of sport for children and young people in schools the Youth Sport Trust receives Exchequer and lottery funding from a number of Government Departments and organisations which include the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the Department of Health, Sport England, the Big Lottery Fund, and V, an independent charity championing youth volunteering in England.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: International Red Cross

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what action he is taking to urge the Burmese military regime to permit unhindered access to prisons in Burma by the International Committee of the Red Cross; [147984]

(2) what action he is taking to urge the Burmese military regime to re-open the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [147985]

Meg Munn: We share the deep concerns of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over the large-scale violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Burmese Government against civilians.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development released a joint statement on 29 June condemning the Burmese Government's failure to co-operate with the ICRC in its efforts to alleviate the suffering of the ordinary people of Burma and to assist mine victims and prisoners. The statement can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front/pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1183540269106&year=2007&month=2007-06-01

The European Commission has also issued a press statement expressing its concern about restrictions on the work of the ICRC in Burma. The statement can be found at:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1012&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=enhttp://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1012&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

We regularly raise our concerns with the regime about the serious humanitarian and human rights situation in Burma and will continue to emphasise the importance of the ICRC's humanitarian assistance in Burma.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives are of the EU sanctions against Burma; and what assessment he has made of progress made towards meeting these objectives. [147482]

David Miliband: The EU's sanctions, as set out in the EU common position on Burma, are an expression of the EU's disapproval of the Burmese regime and its policies and are intended to apply pressure for change. The common position includes a visa ban and assets freeze aimed at the Burmese leaders, their families and associates who formulate, implement or benefit from policies that impede Burma's transition to democracy.

The common position has two strengths: firstly, it delivers a message to the regime that the EU condemns the regime's actions towards the Burmese people; secondly, it is a unified position supported by all members of the EU and thus delivers a common and united EU message to the regime.

We are disappointed that the Burmese Government has so far failed to respond to the pressure and encouragement of the international community to embrace substantive democratic change and national reconciliation.

While we do not believe that sanctions used in isolation will bring about political change in Burma, we take the view that targeted measures aimed at senior members of the regime and their associates, applied in combination with the engagement of the UN and our international partners in the region, provide a clear incentive for substantial political change.

Chechnya: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on the political situation in Chechnya. [148300]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government remain deeply concerned about the situation in Chechnya. This issue is raised regularly in the context of both UK-Russia and EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will also continue to discuss Russia in conversations with our international counterparts. I fully expect that these discussions will cover both internal and external issues.

European Constitution Treaty

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to discuss the new EU treaty with his *(a)* Czech, *(b)* Polish and *(c)* Dutch counterpart. [147670]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will have regular contact with all his EU counterparts and looks forward to meeting the Polish and Czech Foreign Ministers. He will discuss many issues with them, including the Reform Treaty.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met his Dutch counterpart on 5 July. They discussed a number of issues, including the Reform Treaty.

Gibraltar

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his Spanish counterpart on the future sovereignty of Gibraltar in *(a)* March, *(b)* April, *(c)* May and *(d)* June 2007. [147001]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have yet to have the opportunity to meet our Spanish counterparts since taking up our new positions, but look forward to doing so. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 4 June, *Official Report*, column 236W. As regards sovereignty discussions, it remains the position that the Government would not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar was not content.

Human Trafficking: Conferences

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2205W, on human trafficking: conferences, how many people attended the conference; how many were front-line practitioners; how many were from the UK; how many Members of Parliament from each EU country attended; what conclusions and recommendations emerged from the conference; and what further action is planned. [148195]

Dr. Howells: The Wilton Park conference entitled "Human Trafficking: how best to stem the flow" was attended by 61 people from 28 countries and international organisations, with 19 of the participants from the UK (including one hon. Member). Data protection rules prohibit the release of delegates' personal information. The range of participation is reflected in the speakers shown on the conference programme and included policy makers, practitioners, politicians, academics and law enforcement experts and is available on the Wilton Park website at:

http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/documents/conferences/WP854/pdfs/WP854prog.pdf

A Conference Report will be sent to all participants and will be available on the Wilton Park website within one month. The report will be a summary of the main points and conclusions of the conference without

attributing remarks. The conference and the subsequent report will be used by participants to inform international policy-making.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [147573]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by recent political developments in Iran, in particular the increase in restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. We also continue to have concerns about Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programme; its malign interference in Iraq and elsewhere in the region; and its support for terrorism.

We would welcome dialogue and engagement with Iran as it develops its economy and society and we would remind Iran that, to be a respected member of the international community, Iran has to abide by its international commitments, for example the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty and it needs to use its regional influence constructively.

Irian Jaya

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Indonesian Government on their decision not to allow Congressman Faleomavaega to visit West Papua. [148525]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports that US Congressman Faleomavaega was denied access to Papua by the Indonesian authorities, who have said they cannot guarantee his safety. We understand that a number of Papuan representatives including members of the MRP (Majelis Rakyat Papua/Papuan People's Council), the Papuan tribal council and Governors Suebu and Atururi travelled from Papua to meet with Congressman Faleomavaega in Jakarta.

We have not raised this with the Indonesian authorities. The UK's policy on Papua is that we support the territorial integrity of Indonesia and therefore do not support independence for the province of Papua. We believe that the best way to resolve the complex issues in Papua is through promoting peaceful dialogue between Papuan groups and the Indonesian Government. We believe that full implementation of existing Special Autonomy legislation is the best way to proceed towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Papua province.

Kyrgyzstan: Radioactive Wastes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance is being given by the UK and international agencies to Kyrgyzstan to help it manage its nuclear waste. [148491]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK provides funds to the World Bank and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which are the leading international agencies providing assistance to Kyrgyzstan in managing its nuclear waste. The World Bank provides financial support to reduce the danger from uranium wastes in the Ferghana Valley following an earlier study by the European Commission of the potential threat posed by mine wastes at the Mailuu-Suu uranium mine. The IAEA has provided technical assistance in the assessment of the radiation situation at the former uranium mine site. The IAEA has also funded a number of regional projects in central Asia which cover Kyrgyzstan. These include improvement of radiation waste management infrastructure, quality assurance, radiation protection, establishment of national capabilities for response systems, training personnel in radiation safety and management of residues from former mining and milling activities.

Libyan Arab Republic

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit Libya. [147672]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the then Prime Minister (Mr. Blair), visited Libya on 29 to 30 May. His visit sealed the transformation of UK/Libya relations since Libya's renunciation of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction in 2003. He met Colonel Gaddafi and Prime Minister Baghdadi, and discussed the wide range of areas in which we are co-operating, including trade, health and education. I also discussed these issues during my visit in June 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to visit Libya. His foreign engagements, and those of other Ministers, are kept under constant review.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK officials will be seconded to support the work of the Quartet representative as set out in the Quartet statement of 27 June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [147479]

David Miliband: We welcome the right hon. Tony Blair's appointment as the Quartet's middle east representative. As Prime Minister, he demonstrated his commitment, over the years, to advancing the middle east peace process. He is exceptionally well placed to take on this role. We understand that details of Mr. Blair's role and how he and his team will operate are being worked out now. We are currently considering how we can support Mr. Blair's work.

The Quartet's efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Arab/Israeli conflict are vital not only for the region but for the wider international community. The middle east peace process is one of our top priorities. We will continue to support the Quartet and their new representative in their work.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance is being made available to aid the *(a)* Ethiopian military and *(b)* infrastructure reconstruction in Somalia from (i) the UK and (ii) the EU. [146859]

Meg Munn: Neither the Government, nor the EU, is providing financial assistance to aid the Ethiopian military's operations in Somalia.

The Government, through Department for International Development funding, is providing a limited amount of support for infrastructure reconstruction in Somalia through its health and education programmes.

This includes:

rehabilitation of key government buildings in Baidoa/Johwar (£200,000);

construction of Hargeisa prison (£150,000);

construction of Hargeisa Police stations (£130,000);

construction of Ghardo Prison (£50,000);

construction of Armo Police Training Academy (£7,500); and

equipping and renovations of civil service/public administration training institutions and support to selected ministries equipment/renovations (£200,000).

The European Commission is providing approximately €50 million per year of reconstruction through its health; education; rural development; governance, water and sanitation and food security programmes. These programmes include elements of infrastructure support.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Sudanese Liberation Movement and *(b)* Justice and Equality Movement on seeking peace in Darfur. [147973]

Meg Munn: A renewed political process is the only solution to the crisis in Darfur. We remain in close contact with the African Union and UN envoys, who are leading the renewed political process. Officials are in contact with a range of Sudanese rebel representatives based outside Darfur including the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement. Access to military commanders within Darfur is more difficult, but officials from our embassy in Khartoum are in contact with groups on the ground.

We use our contacts with the rebels, as with the government of Sudan, to press them to stop fighting and to engage in the political process; to respect international humanitarian law; and to provide safe and unrestricted access to humanitarian agencies. We have made clear that if they do not fulfil their commitments then we will impose further tough measures in the UN Security Council.

Sweden: NATO

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential for *(a)* Swedish and *(b)* Finnish membership of NATO; and if he will make a statement. [148301]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have made no assessment of the potential for Swedish and Finnish membership of NATO as neither country has requested NATO membership. NATO operates an open door policy and would respect the sovereign decision of any country in the Euro-Atlantic area wishing to apply for membership. Any application would be subject to the consensus approval of the North Atlantic Council.

Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role he expects British police officers to have in Uganda *(a)* before and *(b)* during the Commonwealth Conference; and if he will make a statement. [147554]

Mr. Jim Murphy: At the request of the Ugandan Government police officers from the United Kingdom have been involved in training and advising Ugandan security staff in preparation for the state visit of Her Majesty The Queen and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. I expect that support to continue until the event.

Uganda: Group of Eight

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department received representations on whether President Museveni of Uganda should have been invited to the latest G8 meeting. [147838]

Meg Munn: We did not receive any such representations. It is for the sitting G8 presidency to decide which non-G8 leaders to invite to the annual summit. We welcomed the attendance of many African leaders at Heiligendamm as it gave G8 leaders an opportunity to discuss with them the issues of key importance to Africa today and into the future.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the 2005 constitutional amendment in Uganda on the position of that country's President. [147841]

Meg Munn: The Ugandan Parliament voted in 2005 to lift the constitutional two-term limit on the office of President to allow incumbents to serve an unlimited number of terms. This enabled President Museveni to stand in the February 2006 elections, when he was re-elected. The next presidential elections are scheduled for 2011.

UN Resolutions: Frontiers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1719, on UN resolutions: frontiers, how many further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006) from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons. [147480]

David Miliband: The answer of 2 May given to the right. hon. Member by my right. hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) *Official Report*, column 1719, noted that two notifications had been

received from member states of travel by individuals designated in the Annexes to UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007), in March. No further notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee, established pursuant to UNSCR 1737 (2006), from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 230W, on blood: contamination, what *(a)* written and *(b)* verbal communications his Department has had with the UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation to date on the inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if he will make a statement. [147951]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not had any formal written or verbal communication with the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation about the Lord Archer Inquiry.

Breast Cancer: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in Portsmouth *(a)* did not accept an invitation to routine breast screening, *(b)* did not attend appointments made, *(c)* were diagnosed with breast cancer and *(d)* died from breast cancer in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [146496]

Ann Keen: Data on how many women in Portsmouth who did not accept an invitation to routine breast screening is not collected centrally.

Data on how many women in Portsmouth who did not attend appointments made (or where the result was inadequate) is shown in the table.

Breast screening programme: Women invited for routine screening by Portsmouth Breast Screening Unit and their attendance each specified year

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Number of women invited	19,907	18,677	21,799
Number of women screened (tech adequate)[1]	15,301	12,896	16,275
Did not attend appointments or result was inadequate[2]	4,606	5,781	5,524

[1] Number of women screened who produced a technically adequate result.
[2] Includes a small amount of women who where screened and produced an inadequate result.
Source:
KC62 table 1 A, B, C1 and C2 The Information Centre.

Data on how many women in Portsmouth were diagnosed with breast cancer is shown in the table.

Breast screening programme: Women diagnosed with cancer by Portsmouth Breast Screening Unit by invitation type each specified year

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total women with breast cancer[1]	115	90	128
of which:			
Women invited for routine screening with breast cancer	93	82	117

[1] Total women with cancer includes those called for routine screening, early recalls, and self and general practitioner referrals.
Source:
KC62 table 3 parts A, B, C1, and C2 The Information Centre.

Data on how many women in Portsmouth died from breast cancer is shown in the table.

Number of deaths with an underlying cause of breast cancer, females, Portsmouth Unitary Authority, 2003-05[1]

	Deaths (Females)
2003	35
2004	30
2005	36

[1] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year. *Notes:* 1. Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C50.
2. Based on unitary authority boundaries as of 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account he has taken of trends in the demographics of Portsmouth in the operation of the NHS Breast Screening programme there; [146502]

(2) what the average intervals are between routine screening appointments for breast cancer in Portsmouth. [146495]

Ann Keen: The Department takes the issues of maintaining the three year interval for breast screening and the demographic challenges facing the breast screening programme over the coming years very seriously. This is why Professor Mike Richards, National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities (SHAs) in England on 9 February 2007 on behalf of the Department's Cancer Programme Board.

The letter to the chief executive of South Central SHA (the SHA area covering Portsmouth), pointed out the demographic challenges facing local breast screening services to help local commissioners plan their service over the coming years. By 2008-09, South Central SHA will have to carry out 185,350 screenings per year (an additional 74 per cent. of its 2004-05 level, inclusive of women in the extended age range of 65-70) in order to achieve and/or maintain the three year screening interval. By 2015-16, 207,250 screenings per year will be needed, a 95 per cent. increase on 2004-05 activity.

The letter also highlighted the importance of maintaining a three-year screening interval. Between January and March 2007, 99.1 per cent. of women served by the Portsmouth Breast Screening Unit were screened within 38 months of their previous screen. 51 per cent. of women had been screened within three years of their previous screen.

The Portsmouth Unit are working hard to ensure that all women are screened within three years of their previous screen.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in Portsmouth were invited for breast screening on a routine basis in 2006-07; how many such invitations he expects to be issued in *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [146503]

Ann Keen: The data on the number of women invited for breast screening on a routine basis in 2006- 07 will not be published until February 2008. Data provided, therefore, is for 2005-06. Information on the number of invitations expected to be issued in the next five and 10 years is neither forecast nor collected centrally.

The table shows the latest data available.

Breast screening programme: Women invited for routine screening by Portsmouth Breast Screening Unit, 2005-06

	Number
Total invited for routine screening	21,799
First invitations for routine screening	3,587
Routine invitation to previous non-attenders	1,992
Routine invitation to previous attenders (last screened within five years)	12,634
Routine invitation to previous attenders (last screened more than five years)	3,586

Source: KC62 Tables A, B, C1 and C2 The Information Centre

Cancer

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's cancer strategy is for the next decade; and if he will make a statement. [148453]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently developing a new Cancer Reform Strategy to build on the successes of the Cancer Plan published in 2000. The work is being led by the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards CBE. More than 1,000 representatives, including patients, clinicians, charities and other independent experts have been involved. The strategy is expected to be published before the end of 2007.

Cancer: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual expenditure per capita was on cancer drugs in each of the last 10 years; and what benchmarking analysis she has undertaken of expenditure on cancer drugs in other EU countries. [146759]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information centrally on annual expenditure per capita on cancer drugs. However national health service reference costs returns from the NHS for 2005-06 show that over £460 million is spent on in-patient chemotherapy treatment and drugs. This excludes out-patient costs and excess bed days where patients spend longer in hospital than expected.

In addition, data from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) System and IMS Health show that annual spend on cancer drugs dispensed in hospitals and the community from 2002 to 2006 increased from £459.6 million to £729.1 million as set out in the following table.

	Combined hospital and community data[2,5]				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Anti-cancer drugs[1]	459.6	537.9	611.4	631.2	729.1

[1] Anti-cancer drugs include cancer drugs appraised by National Institute for Clinical Excellence, standard cytotoxic drugs (non-NICE), drugs used for cancer and other conditions, endocrine drugs used for cancer and supportive care drugs used for cancer.

[2] Prescription information has been taken from:

a. the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Agency. This is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions

b. IMS Health—IMS collect hospital dispensing information from most hospitals in England. 97 per cent. of acute English hospitals supply data to IMS about all medicines dispensed in hospitals. Figures are grossed up to give England level estimates on the basis of bed numbers.

IMS hospital dispensing data is released on a regular basis. Each IMS dataset includes data for 24 months and may include updates to earlier data. The datasets used in this table were: data prior to July 2005—the dataset issued in early 2006; July 2005 onwards—the dataset issued April 2007.

[3] Cost is given in £ million and is the cost of the drugs at NHS list price. It is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

[4] IMS data includes all drugs dispensed in NHS hospital regardless of patient, so will include drugs dispensed to private patients in private wards within NHS hospitals as long as they have been dispensed via the hospital pharmacy (extent of this varies from hospital to hospital).

[5] The list of drugs used to compile the totals given in this table consists of drugs used in the treatment of cancer in early 2006. There may have been some additions to this list since that time which will not be included in this analysis.

As part of the development of the cancer reform strategy we are looking at where money is currently being spent in cancer services, where cost pressures will come from in the future and how we can get best value for money. As part of this work, we are considering available data on cancer spend including comparisons with other countries. This work is not yet complete.

Cancer: Low Incomes

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to tackle financial hardship affecting cancer patients. [148533]

Ann Keen: There are a number of ways in which the Department is working to support people in financial hardship with the costs associated with their health care.

The NHS Low Income Scheme provides support for people in financial difficulties with prescriptions charges, dental treatment, sight tests and glasses and travel to receive national health service treatment through the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme. Financial support is available to those who are eligible through the benefits system, including disability living allowance and attendance allowance.

The Department is working to make people more aware of the financial support available through information prescriptions, which will be available for everyone with a long term condition by the end of

2008. This commitment is part of the 2006 White Paper "Our Health Our Care Our Say".

We are piloting information prescriptions in 20 sites during 2007, including in four sites focusing on cancer (County Durham PCT, Nottingham university hospitals NHS Trust—Mid Trent Cancer Network, university hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust). These pilots are being run in partnership with voluntary organisations like Cancerbackup and Macmillan Cancer Support. Information prescriptions will guide people to the relevant websites, telephone numbers and support groups for their condition, including information about benefits.

Further information is made available locally through Patient Advice and Liaison Services, and policies are being developed locally to routinely offer information throughout the cancer patient pathway.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to issue guidance on abdominal aortic aneurysm screening; and if he will make a statement. [146668]

Ann Keen: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) can be recommended in principle subject to further work, particularly on the appropriate configuration of treatment services and the provision for men to make an informed choice about whether to undergo screening. The NSC is considering the practical implications that would be involved in implementing a screening programme for AAA. Further detailed work under the auspice of the NSC is being undertaken on a number of practical issues. These include developing standard operating procedures, programme standards, quality assurance procedures and training requirements. The Department's officials will be kept informed on how this work develops.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that mortality rates for abdominal aortic aneurysm operations are reduced prior to the introduction of a national screening programme; and if she will make a statement; [146674]

(2) what the mortality rate is in each strategic health authority in England for elective abdominal aortic aneurysm operations; and if she will make a statement. [146675]

Ann Keen: Commissioners of care and hospitals providing services have responsibility for ensuring quality of care, taking account of the Report published in October 2005 from the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death, "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm: A service in need of surgery?". The report is available at:

www.ncepod.org.uk/2005report2/

The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) can be recommended, in principle, subject to further work, particularly on the appropriate configuration of treatment services and the provision for men to make an informed choice about whether to undergo screening. The NSC is considering the practical implications that would be involved in implementing a screening programme for AAA. Further detailed work under the auspice of the NSC is being undertaken on a number of practical issues. These include developing standard operating procedures, programme standards, quality assurance procedures and training requirements. The Department's officials will be kept informed on how this work develops.

The information requested regarding mortality rates for elective AAA operations by strategic health authority is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cases of healthcare-acquired infections and *(b)* deaths where the death certificate refers to a healthcare-acquired infection in care homes there were in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) type of infection and (ii) type of care home. [147022]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The information requested on the number of health care associated infections in care homes is not collected.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish figures on deaths with MRSA (meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or *Clostridium difficile*) mentioned on the death certificate each year. These include figures on the type of place in which the deaths occurred. Information about where the infection was acquired is not collected at death registration and may be different from the place of death. The following tables provide figures for the past three years by type of care home in which the deaths happened.

Number of death certificates mentioning C.difficile[1], by place of death[2], 2003-05[3]

	NHS nursing home	Non-NHS nursing home	Private residential home	Local authority residential home	Total
2003	14	28	9	6	57
2004	11	56	17	8	92
2005	24	80	32	8	144
Total	49	164	58	22	293

[1] Identified using the methodology outlined in annual ONS reports on deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*.
[2] Place of death records where the death occurred. This information does not imply anything about where any infection was acquired.
[3] Deaths occurring in 2003-2005.

Number of death certificates mentioning MRSA[1], by place of death[2], 2003-05[3]

	NHS nursing home	Non-NHS nursing home	Private residential home	Local authority residential home	Total
2003	15	36	15	4	70
2004	6	58	18	5	87

Number of death certificates mentioning MRSA[1], by place of death[2], 2003-05[3]

	NHS nursing home	Non-NHS nursing home	Private residential home	Local authority residential home	Total
2005	13	87	37	9	146
Total	34	181	70	18	303

[1] Identified using the methodology outlined in annual ONS reports on deaths involving MRSA.
[2] Place of death records where the death occurred. This information does not imply anything about where any infection was acquired.
[3] Deaths occurring in 2003-05.

Dental Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average unit of dental activity value is in each primary care trust. [147887]

Ann Keen: Data collected by the Department centrally does not identify the value of units of dental activity or provide a basis for comparisons of such values between primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs set contract values and service level requirements locally. Each contract specifies an annual contract value and the number of units of dental activity (which are a weighted measure of the courses of treatment given to national health service patients) to be provided over the courses of the year. This relationship between contract values and annual units of dental activity will vary because of a number of factors, including differences in treatment patterns and treatment needs in different areas, the contract values negotiated locally by PCTs and dental practices, and the degree to which PCTs and practices may have agreed service outputs that cannot be measured through patient courses of treatment.

Dental Services: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding was allocated to dentistry provision in Stockport in each year since 1997. [147250]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) assumed full responsibility for local commissioning of primary care dentistry and received devolved budgets with effect from 1 April 2006. The following table shows the Primary Dental Service Resource Allocations for Stockport PCT for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

£ million

Financial year	Net allocation	Indicative patient charge revenue	Indicative gross budget
2006-07	11.232	5.463	16.695
2007-08	11.972	5.452	17.424

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former General Dental Service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health services work they chose to undertake. PCTs were not given fixed GDS funding allocations. In a number of areas, Personal Dental Service (PDS) pilots were also established, where some former GDS dental practices and some directly managed dental services converted to locally commissioned arrangements to test new ways of working and new forms of contract remuneration. PDS pilots were introduced in 1998 and were funded by PCTs from supplementary allocations issued by the Department of Health.

The following table shows the available data on expenditure on the former GDS and PDS services for Stockport PCT for 1997-98 to 2005-06. The difference between gross and net expenditure is the contribution to costs from dental charges collected directly from patients.

Note that reliable data on PDS expenditure are available only for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06. Therefore, the figures shown for gross GDS and PDS and net GDS and PDS before 2004-05 may be lower than the true total GDS and PDS spend. Changes from year to year may be affected by the shift from GDS to PDS in 2004-05.

Core GDS and PDS Dental Payments within Stockport PCT, 1997-98 to 2005-06[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

£ million

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Gross GDS	9.031	9.602	9.823	10.475	11.142	11.356	10.571	7.236	4.928
Gross PDS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.581	9.429
Net GDS	5.783	6.132	6.240	6.687	7.207	7.451	7.046	5.066	3.805
Net PDS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.384	7.354
Gross GDS and PDS	9.031	9.602	9.823	10.475	11.142	11.356	10.571	12.817	14.357
Net GDS and PDS	5.783	6.132	6.240	6.687	7.207	7.451	7.046	9.450	11.159

[1] Gross GDS payments include adult fees (including item of service and continuing care payments), child fees (including item of service and capitation payments), commitment payments and point of treatment check payment training (in 2001 only), seniority payments, maternity/paternity/adoptive leave payments, long-term sick leave payments, continuing professional development allowances including travel hours, reimbursement of business rates, vocational training grants and clinical audit payments. The following costs are excluded from these data: employer's superannuation costs, vocational trainee salaries and national insurance contribution costs, clinical audit convenors, clinical audit secretarial support costs and travel expenses, and costs associated with any salaried general dental practitioners and emergency dental services.

[2] PDS payment data are included from 2004-05 onwards only and relates to baseline payments or the agreed regular monthly payments made to PDS practices. Reliable PDS data at practice level are not available prior to 2004-05. The data cannot identify the cost of any PDS services that are directly managed by local NHS trusts, such as certain dental access centres.

[3] In the immediate aftermath of dental practices converting from GDS to PDS pilots, there can be a period of overlapping expenditure as time lags in submitting GDS treatment claims can mean that clearance of GDS arrears coincides with the start of regular PDS payments.

[4] Payments to dental practices are assigned to areas on the basis of practice postcode data. The practices themselves may draw patients from a wider catchment area.

[5] Net payments represent the balance of payments due after taking account of NHS dental charge income collected from patients by dental practices.

Source:

Information Centre and the Business Services Authority

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are working in Stockport; and how many there were in each year since 1997. [147251]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists within Stockport Primary Care Trust (PCT) as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists within Stockport PCT as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table G of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007 report. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4.

The figures for quarter four and the earlier quarters in the year are provisional and are subject to revision. The final work force figure for 2006-07 will not be available until August 2007 when the Information Centre (IC) will publish an end year report on the first 12 months of the new contractual arrangements.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information.

In both sets of figures, no account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental surgeries there are in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area; and how many of these are accepting new NHS patients. [147252]

Ann Keen: The number of dental surgeries that are accepting new national health service patients is not collected centrally.

As at 29 June 2007, there were 61 NHS dental surgeries within Stockport Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the PCT area. The figure provides a snapshot of the number of addresses with a contract at the specified date.

No account is taken to the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care and the NHS Business Services Authority.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients are registered with NHS general dental practitioners in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area. [147253]

Ann Keen: Registration data no longer form part of the data available under the new national health service dental contractual arrangements. The new measure is patients seen in the previous 24 months and is not comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Numbers of patients seen, by adult and child, in the previous 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 in Stockport Primary Care Trust, are available in Section F1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4:31 March 2007 report'. This report is available in the Library.

Information is as at England, strategic health authority and PCT level and the report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available on-line at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalq4

Diseases: Thyroid Gland

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism. [148576]

Ann Keen: Representations on the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism have been recently received from a small number of health professionals and members of the public, and from members of parliament on behalf of their constituents.

These representations have raised concerns over the over-reliance on blood tests in the diagnosis of hypothyroidism, and the possibility of under diagnosis of this condition.

At present, it is considered good medical practice to confirm a diagnosis of hypothyroidism though physical examination, clinical history and blood tests.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialty training posts will be available in round 2; and how many of those are *(a)* run-through training posts and *(b)* fixed-term specialist training appointments; [147823]

(2) how many junior doctors from the foundation year 2 cohort have not *(a)* received and *(b)* accepted offers of training places in round 1; [147824]

(3) what proportion of posts have been filled by junior doctors in round 1, broken down by *(a)* specialty and *(b)* level. [147825]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The information requested is in the final stages of validation and will be published shortly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will create further specialty training posts for autumn 2007 beyond the 215 extra specialty training posts already announced. [147826]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* There are no plans to create further run-through specialist training posts for 2007 beyond the 215 already announced. However, for those who have successfully completed the Modernising Medical Careers foundation training programme and who demonstrate their ability to progress, there will be new training programmes through one-year fixed term appointments. There will also be a range of educational grants available to enable doctors either to get an additional year's experience in their chosen specialty or to choose to gain experience in a different specialty, thus giving them all a better chance to apply and secure a training programme next year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether junior doctors who failed to obtain a run-through training post this year will be able to apply for them in subsequent years. [147827]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Provided they meet the eligibility criteria for the year in which they apply junior doctors will be able to apply for posts advertised in that year.

Hazardous Substances: Transport

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Best Practice Guidance on the Transport of Infectious Substances published on his Department's website on 1 June 2007, Gateway reference 8334, whether his Department is aware of any occasions on which cultures containing *(a) Escherichia coli* (verocytotoxigenic), *(b) Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *(c) Shigella dysenteriae* have been sent via Royal Mail. [147575]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not monitor the transportation of infectious substances but recommends that cultures containing *(a) Escherichia coli* (verocytotoxigenic), *(b) Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *(c) Shigella dysenteriae* are transported by a specialist courier company. Details are found in Transport of Infectious Substances—Best Practice Guidance for Microbiology Laboratories, Gateway reference 8334.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cases of C. difficile and *(b)* deaths where the death certificate refers to C. difficile there were in each acute hospital trust in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [147023]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Health Protection Agency (HPA) publishes mandatory surveillance data for Clostridium difficile infection on its website. The scheme began in January 2004 and up until 31 March 2007 all acute national health service trusts had to report all cases of C.difficile infection for patients aged 65 years and over. Annual data for individual trusts for the first three years (2004, 2005 and 2006) are available on the HPA website at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/C_diff_annual_Apr_2007.xls A copy of the tables has been placed in the Library.

No figures on numbers of deaths as recorded on death certificates are routinely available by NHS trust.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of cases of clostridium difficile that were caused by in-hospital contamination in each of the last three years. [147460]

Ann Keen: The Health Protection Agency publishes data on the mandatory surveillance scheme for Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) on its website, www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm.

The scheme began in January 2004 and up until 31 March 2007, all acute national health service trusts in England had to report all cases of CDI for patients aged 65 years and over. The annual national figures are shown in the following table.

Annual cases of GDI in England

	Annual cases[1] of CDI
January to December 2004	44,314
January to December 2005	51,767
January to December 2006	55,681

[1] Cases are defined as all diarrhoeal specimens that test positive for C. difficile toxin (where the patient has not been diagnosed with CDI in the preceding four weeks).

Note:

The data collected do not include information on where the infection was acquired, thus we do not know how many of these cases are acquired in hospital.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1920W, on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, when the minutes are likely to be agreed. [147463]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation minutes have now been agreed and copies are available in the Library and at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/mins140207.htm

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/mins-hpv-280207.htm

Maternity Services: Midlands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many additional nursing posts were created in the neonatal units at *(a)* Stoke, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Shrewsbury hospitals in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; [146563]

(2) how many nurses were employed in the neonatal units at *(a)* Stoke, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Shrewsbury hospitals in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; and how many are now employed. [146564]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The Department centrally collects staffing data in an annual survey at acute trust level. Therefore, data is not available by individual hospital or for a geographical area of the country. The data collected reflects the number of staff rather than the number of posts. While the data can be broken down to maternity services area of work, it is not possible to separate out data for neonatal units.

Data on NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the maternity services area of work, as at 30 September for 2005 and 2006 (latest data available), is shown in the table. The trusts within the table are those within the geographical areas requested.

Trust	*2005*	*2006*
University hospital of North Staffordshire NHS trust	299	297
The Royal Wolverhampton hospitals NHS trust	147	140
Shrewsbury and Telford hospital NHS trust	303	277

Notes:
More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
Source:
Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce Census

Maternity Services: Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the impact of proposed changes to neonatal care at Royal Shrewsbury hospital on babies born under 27 weeks' gestation currently cared for at the hospital. [146511]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 656-57W.

MRSA: Disease Control

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to hospital trusts on whether patients with MRSA infections should be nursed in single rooms. [146841]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Guidance on the management of patients with methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections was drawn up by a joint working party of the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, the Hospital Infection Society and the Infection Control Nurses Association. It was published in the Journal of Hospital Infection in March 2006[1].

The guidance makes clear that patient isolation for those infected or colonised with MRSA will be dependent on the facilities available and the associated level of risk. Isolation should be in a designated closed area that should be clearly defined; in most facilities, this will be either single-room accommodation or cohort areas/bays with clinical hand-washing facilities. The guidance also states that consideration should be given to the provision of isolation wards to contain MRSA spread.

In addition to the guidance referred to above, the Health Act 2006, Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections, requires trusts to have policies on allocation of patients to isolation facilities based on local risk assessment.

Source:

[1] Published March 2006 (online version, April 2006), by the Journal of Hospital Infection, (Volume 63, Supplement 1, Pages S1-S44).

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of using ozone to combat the threat of MRSA; how many representations on the subject he has received; and if he will make a statement. [147475]

Ann Keen: The Rapid Review Panel, convened by the Health Protection Agency at the request of the Department, has reviewed seven products that use ozone and none of these demonstrate that their use reduces infection rates. The use of ozone to reduce methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections is unproven.

NHS: Finance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 278W, on NHS finance, whether rates of clostridium difficile were taken into consideration during the allocation of grants under the capital challenge fund scheme; [147465]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 278W, on NHS finance, what factors were taken into account in the decision to allocate funds to hospitals under the capital challenge fund scheme. [147476]

Ann Keen: All acute trusts were offered an allocation of £300,000 under the Capital Challenge Fund in order to enable investment in tackling infections to be increased quickly. All applications for funding up to that level were approved in full. There was no need for additional factors, including rates of Clostridium difficile infection to be taken into account. For national health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs), the Capital Challenge Fund offered a potential addition of £300,000 to public dividend capital. In order to receive the addition, NHSFTs had to meet the general rules for entitlement to public dividend capital.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost of required maintenance in the NHS was in each financial year since 1997-98; and what this figure was for 2006-07, broken down by NHS organisation. [148153]

Mr. Bradshaw: The summary information requested is in the table.

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of the backlog maintenance relates to low priority work which will be undertaken through ongoing maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority.

	Total backlog maintenance (£ million)
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,517
2003-04	3,193
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684

The data is as provided by the national health service and has not been amended centrally. Its accuracy and completeness is the responsibility of the provider organisation. A list of the latest available figures broken down by NHS organisation has been placed in the Library.

Sight Impaired: Low Incomes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance is available for *(a)* the elderly and *(b)* people on low income who need spectacles; what the eligibility criteria are; how much was (i) allocated for such assistance and (ii) received on average by claimants in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [146905]

Ann Keen: Individuals aged over 60 who are in receipt of Income Support, income-based Job seeker's allowance, or tax credits and meeting qualifying conditions, or who qualify for help under the National Health Service Low Income Scheme, can get help with the cost of glasses or contact lenses via an NHS optical voucher. Individuals under 60 and on low incomes may also be entitled to NHS optical vouchers. NHS optical vouchers provide eligible groups with flexibility over which glasses or contact lenses they choose and where they buy them.

There are nine voucher bands with vouchers ranging from £34.60 to £190.90, depending on the patient's prescription.

Expenditure on NHS optical vouchers is demand-led and not subject to a cash limited allocation.

Figures for expenditure in 2006-07 are not yet available. In 2005-06, 65 per cent., of vouchers reimbursed were for adults receiving income support, income-based job seeker's allowance, tax credits, or those eligible for help under the NHS Low Income Scheme. It is not possible to estimate how many of these vouchers were for people aged over 60 alone.

The estimated total cost of vouchers and repairs and replacements for these groups in 2005-06 was around £104 million, based on a total spend of £159 million for all eligible patients.

Vaccination: Side effects

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* other adverse reactions to vaccines were reported in each of the last 30 years; and whether there were any deaths in each year from 1964 to 2007 attributed to vaccination. [146430]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table lists the numbers of reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs) to vaccines submitted to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) via the yellow card scheme between 1 January 1964 and 31 December 2006.

It is very important to note that the report of a suspected ADR via the yellow card scheme and inclusion in this list does not necessarily mean that the event was caused by the vaccine. Yellow card reports are suspicions that a vaccine or medicine may have caused an event and are not proof of a causal association.

The increase in total reports in the year 2000 was due to the meningitis C immunisation campaign during which more than 18 million doses of the vaccine were administered in just over a year.

Data from the yellow card scheme is continually reviewed to identify new safety issues with medicines and vaccines, and where issues are identified appropriate action is taken to protect public health.

Received year	*Number of reports*	*Fatal reports*
1964	111	1
1965	128	1
1966	148	1
1967	119	0
1968	246	4
1969	220	11
1970	171	5
1971	159	4
1972	147	5
1973	133	7
1974	189	5
1975	207	1
1976	386	3
1977	544	2
1978	577	6
1979	609	8
1980	693	4
1981	579	5
1982	587	5
1983	495	4
1984	677	4
1985	876	12

Received year	Number of reports	Fatal reports
1986	1,102	4
1987	807	5
1988	1,441	11
1989	1,969	12
1990	1,428	5
1991	1,166	21
1992	1,641	16
1993	2,422	30
1994	2,640	11
1995	1,668	14
1996	1,329	5
1997	1,255	9
1998	1,297	12
1999	2,471	8
2000	12,816	38
2001	1,416	17
2002	1,309	17
2003	2,052	14
2004	1,757	14
2005	2,205	14
2006	1,465	10

HOME DEPARTMENT

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

10. **Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [147912]

Mr. McNulty: The Serious Organised Crime Agency has just published its first annual report, which highlights significant achievements for an organisation that has only been in existence for just over a year.

This report identifies how SOCA has performed against their strategic imperatives—in response to the priorities laid down by the Home Secretary—and incorporates illustrations of operational successes.

Child Trafficking

11. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department If she will make a statement on the findings of the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre scoping project on child trafficking in the UK. [147913]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office commissioned this report in 2006 to improve our knowledge of the nature and extent of child trafficking in the UK. We are most concerned about the plight of child victims revealed in the findings and welcome the recommendations which are being actively pursued as part of the Government's Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking.

Immigration Review

12. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the implementation of her Department's immigration review. [147914]

Mr. Byrne: Good progress has been made since the IND review was published last year, meeting almost all of the milestones we had set to achieve by April 2007.

The Border and Immigration Agency was established as a shadow agency in April and has since published its priorities and work programme for 2007-08.

Credit Card Fraud

14. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to banks on reporting credit card fraud following the changes to the reporting procedures for such fraud which came into force in January. [147916]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has been liaising with the UK Payments Association (APACS) on changes in relation to the reporting and recording of cheque and plastic card crime. APACS have notified all of their members of the changes prior to 1 April 2007.

DNA Database

15. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances the DNA of children under 10 years old may be included on the national DNA database. [147917]

Meg Hillier: Only when the child's parent or guardian consents to a request from the police to take a DNA sample. 108 children under 10 were on the database at 31 January 2007.

Public Order Offences

16. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were served in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [147918]

Mr. Coaker: The Courts issued some 4,000 antisocial behaviour orders in England and Wales in 2005.

Provisional figures for 2006 show that the police issued some 200,000 penalty notices for disorder in England and Wales. 146,000 were issued in 2005. The payment rate is 53 per cent.

Some 3.5 million fixed penalty notices were also for motoring offences in 2004. The payment rate for these is 88 per cent.

Other agencies, including local authorities may also issue fixed penalty notices—we do not collect data on those.

Deportation

17. **Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the new grounds for deporting people for fomenting extremism under the 12 point plan announced by the then Prime Minister in August 2005. [147919]

Mr McNulty: The new grounds introduced in 2005 were an effective clarification of Government policy in

dealing with extremism. To date one person has been deported and 52 excluded from the UK on these grounds. In the same period we have deported nine and excluded 124 individuals on national security grounds.

Terrorism

18. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on warnings for the public following the recent terrorist attacks. [147921]

Mr. McNaulty: The Home Secretary has not received any representations on warnings for the public following the recent terrorist attacks.

National Identity Card Scheme

19. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress has been made on the National Identity Card Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [147922]

Meg Hillier: The Government remain committed to the introduction of the national identity scheme.

ID cards are essential in combating identity fraud and illegal immigration and in disrupting organised crime and the continued threat of terrorism.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress has been made on the National Identity Card Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [147915]

Liam Byrne: The Government remain committed to the introduction of the national identity scheme.

ID cards are essential in combating identity fraud and illegal immigration and in disrupting organised crime and the continued threat of terrorism.

Drug-related Crime

20. **Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat drug-related crime. [147923]

Mr. Coaker: Recorded acquisitive crime—to which drug-related crime makes a significant contribution—has fallen by 20 per cent. since the onset of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and DIP is now getting, on average, over 3x500 drug misusing offenders into drug treatment each month.

Completion rates for Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) have risen significantly from 28 per cent. in 2003 to 44 per cent. in 2006-07. We know that offenders who complete these orders have significantly lower reconviction rates (53 per cent.) than those who do not (91 per cent.). Research findings also show a reduction of up to 10 per cent. in re-offending rates of those engaging in prison treatment, providing there is relevant aftercare provision.

Police: East Midlands

21. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the level of funding for police authorities in the East Midlands region. [147924]

Mr. McNulty: A number of police authorities and police forces in the East Midlands, as well as several hon. Members, have made representations.

Police forces in the East Midlands, like all forces in England and Wales, have benefited from sustained increases in funding over the past decade.

Respect Taskforce

22. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the work of the Respect Taskforce on reducing antisocial behaviour. [147925]

Jacqui Smith: I have had no formal discussions with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families prior to 28 June, when, following machinery of Government changes the new Department for Children, Schools and Families assumed responsibility for the Respect Task Force.

Databases: Vandalism

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of creating a national database of incidents of graffiti dealt with by local authorities. [147991]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 July 2007]*: A national database of graffiti incidents currently exists and is maintained by the British Transport Police and Transport for London. The images held on the database are uploaded by authorised practitioners, such as police officers and local authority officers who can access the database free of charge. The purpose is not to act as either an intelligence or crime recording system but to facilitate communication between partnership agencies that have an interest in sharing information relating to graffiti. My Department is in discussions with the British Transport Police regarding the effectiveness of the current system.

Police Interrogation: Interpreters

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has *(a)* asked for and *(b)* received any estimate of the total cost of providing translation facilities in police stations for people being interviewed. [148262]

Mr. McNulty: Code C issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 provides that chief officers of each police force are responsible for making sure that appropriate arrangements are in place for provision of suitably qualified interpreters for people who are deaf or who do not understand English. Information is not collated centrally on the cost of these arrangements.

A survey of nine forces carried out in December 2006 by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) showed that some forces do not compile separate records of the costs so no estimate of the total cost is

available. However, the Metropolitan police do keep detailed records and their annual costs amounted to £8.8 million in 2005-06. OCJR estimate that the Metropolitan police accounts for about half of the national spend on interpreters.

Police: Airports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the funding of airport policing. [147692]

Mr. McNulty: The funding of uniformed police at airports was examined last year by an independent review. Since that time both the Home Office and the Department for Transport have been working with representatives from airport operators, ACPO and the police authorities to develop an agreed way forward on the basis of that review's analysis and recommendations.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider the merits of his Department compiling and publishing statistics on police complaints in conjunction with the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [146575]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has responsibility for the operation of police complaints system and the publication of statistics relating to police complaints. Arrangements for the collection and publication of complaint statistics work well and there are no plans to change them. The IPCC publishes data on police complaints in its annual reports laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on police: complaints, if he will make a statement on his meeting with the Independent Police Complaints Commission in March 2007, with particular reference to complaints statistics; and if he will place the minutes of the meeting in the Library. [146693]

Mr. McNulty: The meeting was part of a visit to the IPCC and no minutes were kept.

Police: Driving Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces on the prosecution of police drivers who are caught speeding when not on an emergency call; and if she will make a statement. [147777]

Jacqui Smith: Under section 87 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 a vehicle is exempt from speed limits if it is being used for a police purpose and if observance of a limit would hinder that purpose. "Police purpose" is not defined and is therefore not necessarily restricted to emergency responses. Whether or not to rely on section 87 in any particular case is a decision for the police.

Guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers is that generally no action should be taken when a vehicle is detected speeding if it is using its blue emergency lights. If it is not, the case should be investigated. If the exemption is claimed and there is no evidence to challenge the claim, it should be accepted as valid and no further action taken. If the exemption is not claimed, the case should be processed as normal. If, in the event of a prosecution, the defendant claims the exemption, it will be for the court to decide if the claim is valid.

Police: Driving Under Influence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* disciplined and *(c)* dismissed for drink driving related offences in each of the last three years. [147403]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected by the Home Office.

Police: Health

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1967W, on police health, when he expects the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales working group to publish its findings on national fitness standards for police officers. [146692]

Mr. McNulty: The Police Advisory Board for England and Wales (PAB EW) working group responsible for looking into police fitness standards is currently planning its programme of work—so it is difficult to say exactly when this will be completed. However, I expect the group to report to Ministers on at least one of the specialist police roles sometime in 2008.

The PAB EW advises Ministers on policing matters and a Government position is arrived at on the basis of that advice.

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers left each police force in each year since 2001 due to *(a)* retirement, *(b)* resignation, *(c)* transfer to another force and *(d)* other reasons. [147894]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the tables.

Details on the number of police officer leavers (including those officers transferring to other forces but not those returning after a period of secondment) are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales." The latest available bulletin is available for download from: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306.pdf

Police officer leavers[1] by police force area (FTE)[2] from 2002-03 to 2005-06[3,4]

	2002-03[5]				2003-04			
	Retirements	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*[6]	*Retirements*	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*
Avon and Somerset	31	11	12	2	67	52	17	5
Bedfordshire	21	22	18	3	27	39	37	1
Cambridgeshire	34	22	26	6	40	23	30	2
Cheshire	73	10	7	3	60	21	18	1
Cleveland	32	3	8	5	43	23	8	3
Cumbria	30	9	6	2	32	11	3	1
Derbyshire	55	14	6	5	52	21	3	5
Devon and Cornwall	72	22	12	9	36	13	8	4
Dorset	33	11	7	3	43	18	10	1
Durham	10	4	3	0	39	19	18	1
Dyfed-Powys	6	5	1	2	22	9	6	1
Essex	17	12	34	—	87	36	76	5
Gloucestershire	12	10	4	—	23	16	15	2
Greater Manchester	57	43	16	6	140	126	52	13
Gwent	15	1	3	1	48	15	10	0
Hampshire	101	35	34	4	109	68	47	6
Hertfordshire	33	28	65	4	47	56	51	5
Humberside	28	20	5	1	47	29	18	4
Kent	78	37	47	2	86	72	66	3
Lancashire	76	17	12	7	79	28	11	8
Leicestershire	45	20	33	2	32	35	13	1
Lincolnshire	32	10	5	0	33	16	9	3
London, City of	16	19	11	3	26	12	18	0
Merseyside	114	22	7	5	105	34	18	9
Metropolitan Police	429	453	322	39	578	552	388	33
Norfolk	48	9	6	1	32	10	5	2
Northamptonshire	15	9	11	1	29	26	16	3
Northumbria	78	35	12	6	97	29	20	9
North Wales	21	7	0	0	23	22	3	0
North Yorkshire	25	11	3	1	34	15	10	3
Nottinghamshire	32	12	14	1	73	13	28	2
South Wales	67	20	6	3	108	21	10	8
South Yorkshire	72	36	13	4	101	46	13	2
Staffordshire	19	7	3	2	55	27	9	8
Suffolk	32	14	15	1	36	28	8	3
Surrey	48	27	134	0	44	34	59	8
Sussex	41	35	32	1	88	124	68	7
Thames Valley	99	64	129	7	108	71	134	3
Warwickshire	18	14	7	1	26	19	8	3
West Mercia	59	18	9	2	61	27	19	6
West Midlands	142	89	155	16	108	107	100	5
West Yorkshire	124	34	14	7	101	46	19	12
Wiltshire	36	18	11	4	28	18	14	3

	2004-05				2005-06[7]			
	Retirements	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*	*Retirements*	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*
Avon and Somerset	112	40	20	5	106	77	36	4
Bedfordshire	36	35	23	4	40	24	19	1
Cambridgeshire	45	34	24	4	58	26	25	2
Cheshire	70	26	8	6	92	37	42	3
Cleveland	40	20	4	5	56	24	22	3
Cumbria	24	15	5	1	31	11	22	2
Derbyshire	73	20	12	3	96	20	20	3
Devon and Cornwall	114	31	18	4	94	44	36	9
Dorset	50	20	5	4	72	22	7	3
Durham	46	19	9	5	50	15	33	2
Dyfed-Powys	40	17	1	2	48	12	13	4
Essex	123	66	53	2	99	79	67	10
Gloucestershire	34	16	8	0	51	19	21	3
Greater Manchester	179	128	42	9	211	186	70	24

	2004-05				2005-06[7]			
	Retirements	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*	*Retirements*	*Resignations*	*Transfers*	*Other*
Gwent	52	17	12	2	48	20	7	4
Hampshire	141	47	61	6	158	64	60	7
Hertfordshire	50	54	45	4	54	55	52	6
Humberside	65	36	11	2	84	31	34	6
Kent	110	60	42	3	117	66	81	6
Lancashire	111	42	15	4	117	26	57	10
Leicestershire	65	36	14	5	78	45	32	4
Lincolnshire	57	19	5	0	55	20	19	2
London, City of	21	11	25	1	38	11	29	1
Merseyside	149	38	27	11	170	83	13	12
Metropolitan Police	629	422	257	52	727	337	475	49
Norfolk	54	13	9	3	53	22	14	1
Northamptonshire	44	30	19	1	44	24	20	3
Northumbria	96	34	20	3	113	38	47	2
North Wales	35	17	2	1	56	27	2	4
North Yorkshire	52	18	7	0	66	17	15	3
Nottinghamshire	88	25	24	1	99	14	43	2
South Wales	101	18	4	7	117	29	34	3
South Yorkshire	97	57	23	2	134	40	57	6
Staffordshire	62	43	12	6	70	24	16	3
Suffolk	27	26	17	4	50	14	21	5
Surrey	52	32	72	3	64	37	65	5
Sussex	95	113	46	2	91	82	39	6
Thames Valley	125	100	84	3	119	131	66	10
Warwickshire	34	15	11	3	39	12	18	4
West Mercia	64	21	25	2	99	19	30	5
West Midlands	207	119	81	29	234	137	105	12
West Yorkshire	158	72	30	3	194	89	69	9
Wiltshire	38	24	8	2	34	26	7	0

[1] Includes transfers to other England and Wales forces but does not include officers leaving after a period of secondment. The other category includes those leaving the service due to dismissal or death.
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Data have not been previously published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.
[5] Excludes quarter 1, data not available.
[6] Excludes Essex and Gloucestershire, data not available.
[7] Over 1,000 police officers previously working with the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Squad (NCIS) left their home force to join the Serious Organised Crime Agency when it vested on 1 April 2006.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written answer of 22 June 2007 (145928), on police in Chelmsford, how many full-time equivalent police officers in the Chelmsford basic command unit there were, including officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave on 31 March 1997. [147439]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* Police strength by police basic command unit was collected centrally for the first time for the period beginning April 2002; therefore the requested data are not available.

Police: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the EH20 Escape Hood, with particular reference to its use in a *(a)* chemical, *(b)* biological, *(c)* radiological and *(d)* nuclear incident; and if she will make a statement; [146637]

(2) what assessment she has made of the cost effectiveness of the EH20 Escape Hood; and if she will make a statement; [146638]

(3) what response she has made to the Police Federation's recommendation that EH20 Escape Hoods should be provided to every police officer; [146639]

(4) what guidance the Association of Chief Police Officers has issued to police forces on the EH20 Escape Hood and its use during times of heightened national security; [146640]

(5) what factors were taken into account in the decision to downgrade the EH20 Escape Hood from the list of personal protective equipment issued to all police officers; [146641]

(6) which police authorities have issued their police officers with EH20 Escape Hoods; and if he will make a statement; [146642]

(7) what discussions she has had with the chief constables of *(a)* the Metropolitan police, *(b)* Greater Manchester police, *(c)* North Yorkshire police, *(d)* South Yorkshire police, *(e)* West Yorkshire police and

(f) West Midlands police on the purchasing of the EH20 Escape Hood; and if he will make a statement. [146581]

Mr. McNulty: The Association of Chief Police Officers has drawn to the attention of each force the availability of the EH20 Escape Hood although the purchase and issuing of police equipment is a matter for each individual chief constable.

The contract to manufacture the EH20 Escape Hood was awarded following a competitive tender process which included value for money considerations.

Information on the specific purchases for each police force is not publicised for security reasons.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited by each police force area in each year since 2001. [147893]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the following table.

Details on the number of police officer joiners (including those officers transferring from other forces but not those returning after a period of secondment) are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". The latest available bulletin is available for download from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306.pdf

Police officer recruits[1] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2] (FTE)[3]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Avon and Somerset	40	198	93	123
Bedfordshire	89	178	106	67
Cambridgeshire	76	107	99	104
Cheshire	141	153	105	121
Cleveland	129	138	83	114
Cumbria	63	113	51	55
Derbyshire	146	146	64	66
Devon and Cornwall	138	131	200	255
Dorset	72	86	76	102
Durham	21	104	79	71
Essex	40	225	276	224
Gloucestershire	53	98	60	70
Greater Manchester	113	978	233	277
Hampshire	267	282	204	244
Hertfordshire	202	279	155	173
Humberside	56	188	126	93
Kent	192	290	193	209
Lancashire	246	311	148	196
Leicestershire	116	245	123	96
Lincolnshire	64	44	59	59
London, City of	44	52	39	41
Merseyside	101	192	389	161
Metropolitan Police	2,434	2,971	1,886	1,050
Norfolk	71	56	77	55
Northamptonshire	45	99	109	115
Northumbria	151	197	159	122
North Yorkshire	99	82	71	110
Nottinghamshire	89	138	138	54
South Yorkshire	103	261	205	148
Staffordshire	27	123	108	81
Suffolk	81	113	37	45
Surrey	92	116	130	124
Sussex	139	320	229	236
Thames Valley	306	479	361	374
Warwickshire	57	51	59	69
West Mercia	235	88	90	88
West Midlands	478	408	476	442
West Yorkshire	277	337	566	176
Wiltshire	62	120	70	50
Dyfed-Powys	7	53	35	54
Gwent	45	78	102	80
North Wales	77	66	71	51
South Wales	180	173	118	122

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as police standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Sports

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to encourage police officers to join police sports teams in order to enhance physical fitness levels; how many police forces currently have sports teams; and if he will make a statement. [146576]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the physical fitness of serving police officers and force sports teams lies with the chief officer of each force. Information on police force sports teams is not held centrally.

Police: Training

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police authorities are equipped with Hydra suites for the training of police officers; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of police Hydra suites; what plans she has to encourage police authorities to build more Hydra suites; and if she will make a statement. [146578]

Mr. McNulty: The following police authorities are equipped with Hydra suites for the training of police officers:

Metropolitan Police Service (three suites)
National Policing Improvement Agency (3 suites)
Serious Organised Crime Agency
Scottish Police College, Tulliallan
Avon and Somerset police

Greater Manchester police

Hertfordshire constabulary

Kent constabulary

Merseyside police

Police Service of Northern Ireland (two suites)

South Wales police (three suites)

West Midlands police

West Yorkshire police

The Hydra suite and methodology is also being used internationally by a number of other organisations:

Justice Institute of British Columbia, Canada.

Royal Canadian mounted police currently located in Ottawa. Joint plans are being made for training to be extended to manage the winter Olympics 2010, G8 Conference, Papal visit and other major events in the next few years with both agencies.

Paramata, New South Wales, Australia. This was initially built and used to train police commanders and other agencies to prepare their officers to manage the 2000 Olympic games in Sydney. It is currently being used for leadership programmes, domestic and terrorist related hostage negotiation and counter terrorism preparedness.

The methodology has been grown over the last 20 years and has built on research findings through debriefing of such incidents as community confidence following the murder of Stephen Lawrence, outcomes from the foot and mouth epidemic, the international response to the tsunami, multi agency management of counter terrorism related to 9/11, the London bombings, Sharm el Sheikh and Bali bombings as well as the Olympic games in Sydney 2000, the Commonwealth games in Manchester and the G8 summit in Canada.

The Association of Chief Police Officers Terrorism and Applied Matters Committee (ACPO TAM) has commissioned a number of reports on the effectiveness of Hydra, for example a report entitled a Review of Counter Terrorism Exercises in the UK has 13 references to hydra as examples of good practice.

An HMIC report into the UK state of readiness for counter terrorism states Hydra and its associated 10kv debriefing as the way forward for capacity building. There are various HMIC thematic inspections around critical incident management throughout the country that refer to the effectiveness of those forces who are using Hydra.

The Hydra methodology prohibits the use of hydra to directly assess the performance of delegates; this allows the statement "Safe Learning environment" to have real integrity. However there are triangulated methods for assessments that are built into the programs that surround Hydra events that enable individual assessments to be made.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is planning a new suite at Harperley Hall, Durham; HMRC are building a Hydra suite and have appointed a suite manager; Ministry of Defence police are planning a suite at Wethersfield, Essex.

With the regional spread of Hydra suites there is not a direct need for small forces to create their own establishments and with the NPIA plans for Harperley Hall in Durham, consideration should now be given to plugging any holes in the regional map.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which police forces are participating in the Employer Supported Learning scheme; and in which towns the scheme is operating: [147852]

(2) how many people have been recruited to the Special Constabulary through the Employer Supported Learning scheme; and if she will make a statement. [147853]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the policy development within the Special Constabulary now resides with the NPIA.

I understand from the CEO of the NPIA, that the following forces are currently participating in Employer Support programmes:

Metropolitan Police

Hampshire

Kent

Suffolk

Greater Manchester

South Wales

Bedfordshire

Cambridgeshire

Dorset

Data on the towns in which Employer Support programmes are operating and the number of Special Constables recruited from these programmes is not held centrally.

Police: Unitary Councils

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of the creation of new unitary councils on co-terminosity of police basic command units and local authority boundaries. [146455]

Mr. McNulty: The boundaries of basic command units are administrative boundaries determined by chief constables who take into account the boundaries of local authorities in drawing them up. The consultation process should take in to account views of the local police force and authority on the impact of re-structuring proposals.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the co-terminosity of boundaries between police forces and local government structures. [146456]

Mr. McNulty: Current policy maintains that there should only be consequential changes to force boundaries as a result of local government reorganisation. There are no proposals being consulted on that cross police force borders.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of the bids of local authorities shortlisted for unitary status on policing in those areas. [146464]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has been fully engaged in the local government restructuring process including emphasising the importance of consulting

local police and police authorities so that the local impact of the proposals is fully considered. Police authorities and police forces, along with a range of public bodies, have been able to submit their views as part of the consultation.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the local authorities seeking unitary status which appeared on the shortlist published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 27 March 2006. [146474]

Mr. McNulty: The decision as to which proposals should proceed to stakeholder consultation reflected the collective decision of Government. All the 26 unitary proposals that were received in response to the invitation issued on 26 October 2006 were assessed against the five criteria set out in that invitation. The 16 unitary proposals that have been subject to the stakeholder consultation will now be reassessed against the same five criteria having regard to all the information available including that received in response the consultation.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken in response to the recommendations of the *(a)* 2002 House of Lords Select Committee Report on Animals in Scientific Procedures, *(b)* Animals Procedures Committee (APC) 2001 Report on Openness, *(c)* the APC's 2003 review of Cost-benefit Assessment in the Use of Animals in Research and *(d)* the APC's 2005 Report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals in Scientific Procedures; and if she will make a statement. [147833]

Meg Hillier: Our response to the report of the House of Lord Select Committee on animals in scientific procedures was published in January 2003 (CM 5729) and our responses to the Animal Procedures Committee (APC) reports on openness and the cost benefit assessment have been published in the APC annual reports for 2001 and 2005, respectively. These documents are available in the House Library. We responded to the APC statistics report in January 2006 and a copy of that response is available on the Committee's website.

The main steps we have taken in the light of these reports have been as follows. We have:

established a national centre for the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research (the NCSRs);

reviewed section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the so-called "confidentiality clause", and concluded that it should be should be retained and reviewed again when we have seen the full effect of the safeguards provided by the Freedom of Information Act 2000;

since January 2005, published the details of over 800 project licences granted under the 1986 Act on the Home Office website;

begun publishing an Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate annual report and placed copies of the first two reports, for 2004 and 2005, in the House Library;

made presentational changes to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2005 to make them more reader-friendly;

identified further presentational changes to be made to the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2006 to be published shortly; and

through our on going contacts, worked with the NCSRs and others to identify areas of animal use in which specific gains in the reduction, replacement and refinement of animal procedures might be achievable in the future.

Other changes to the annual statistics publication will be considered later taking account of the recommendations of the Davidson Review of the transposition of European legislation in the United Kingdom and relevant issues raised by the proposed revision of European Directive 86/609/EEC, which the 1986 Act transposes into United Kingdom legislation. Some further information relevant to the cost benefit assessment will also be published when a current judicial review, the outcome of which may be relevant, has been completed.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of *(a)* producing and *(b)* publishing the Animals Procedures Committee's (i) 2001 report on openness, (ii) 2003 cost-benefit assessment on the use of animals in research and (iii) 2005 report on the statistics of scientific procedures on living animals; and if she will make a statement. [147839]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 ("the Act") requires the licensing of any experiment or other scientific procedure carried out on living, protected animals which may cause them pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. The Animal Procedures Committee (APC) is established under section 19 of the Act to provide the Home Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary with independent advice about the Act and their functions under it.

For the financial year 2001-02 the Home Office was allocated in the region of £8,000 for the production of APC reports and related services. In that year the APC produced three reports, its Annual Report and reports on Biotechnology and Openness. For financial year 2003-04, £8,000 was allocated to the Home Office for production of reports, in that year the APC produced its Annual Report and a report on Cost Benefit Assessment. It should be noted that costs are not separately identifiable for the production and publication of such reports.

The Home Office Animals Scientific Procedures Division were charged £1,973 for the printing of forms, and £2,141 for publication of the 2005 Report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on living animals, totalling £4,114. The cost of internal resources allocated to producing this report is not separately identifiable.

Asylum

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum legacy cases have been resolved since the establishment of the dedicated directorate within the Border and Immigration Agency. [147763]

Jacqui Smith: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, wrote to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 February

2007 about the legacy programme. She explained that once reports can be produced on the programme in which Parliament and the wider public can have suitable confidence, Parliament will be updated accordingly. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children who had applied for asylum in the UK and had their application refused were deported in each of the last five years. [148157]

Mr. Byrne: The available data are given in the table.

Information on the age of persons removed from the UK has only been available since the start of 2004. It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process people have reached at the time of their removal (e.g. whether their application had been refused), as those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Information on asylum removals is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals, voluntary departures[1], assisted returns of asylum applicants, including dependants, aged under 18[2], 2004 to 2006[3]

	2004	2005	2006[4]
Total removed	1,900	1,640	1,640

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing 'voluntarily' following enforcement action initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities (from 2005).
[2] Age at time of removal. This figure may overstate because some applicants aged 18 or over may claim to be younger on their date of removal from the UK.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five.
[4] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to deport failed Iraqi asylum seekers living in Plymouth; how many were deported in each of the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [148160]

Mr. Byrne: Each asylum and human rights application made by an Iraqi national is, as with all other nationalities, considered individually against the background of current information from a wide range of well-recognised sources about the situation in Iraq. Those who are found not to be in need of any international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK may return voluntarily to any region of Iraq. Where an individual does not return voluntarily, removal may be enforced. Enforced removals will only be undertaken where we are satisfied the individual has no protection needs. Removal statistics are available in the following table.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of asylum applicants, including dependants, nationals of Iraq, in 2005 and 2006[2,3]

	Number of principal applicants	
Quarter	2005	2006
Total principal asylum applicants removed[4]	1,080	1,830
of whom: removed to Iraq	795	1,640
of whom: removed to other and destination unknown	285	190
Persons removed and voluntary departures[5,6]	320	240
of whom: removed to Iraq	45	65
of whom: removed to other and destination unknown	275	175
Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes[7]	760	1,590
of whom: removed to Iraq	750	1,575
of whom: removed to other and destination unknown	10	15

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with — = 0, * = 1 or 2, and may not sum due to rounding.
[3] Provisional figures.
[4] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, excluding dependants.
[5] Includes persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them and those who it is established have the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[6] Excludes Assisted Voluntary Returns.
[7] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

Counter-terrorism

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the contents of her oral statement of 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 421-37 on counter-terrorism; and what response she has made to those representations. [147193]

Mr. McNulty: We have received a small number of representations from members of the public since the statement of 7 June by the previous Home Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid).

Crime Prevention: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants were provided to the *(a)* Crime Reduction Partnership in Newcastle, *(b)* Newcastle city council and *(c)* the Newcastle Local Strategic Partnership in respect of safety and policing in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08. [146308]

Mr. Coaker: Grant allocations made to Newcastle city council and available to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in each year since 2003-04 are set out as follows:

	Building Safer Communities and ASB Co-ordinators Grant (£)	Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (£)
2003-04	353,000	—
2004-05	385,875	—
2005-06	—	457,225
2006-07	—	457,225
2007-08	—	1,726,483

Since 2005-06, the Building Safer Communities Fund and the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinators Grant have formed part of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. This is a pooled budget which consolidates a growing number of specific grants contributions from the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government, and forms a funding block to support the delivery of Local Area Agreements (LAAs). As a round three LAA, Newcastle city council and its partners are able to use this grant flexibly to deliver a wide range of outcomes, including reductions in crime, antisocial behaviour and the harms caused by drugs. The 2007-08 figures are not directly comparable with previous years because the pooled budget now includes a larger number of funding streams.

These figures exclude any funding allocated to the CDRP that has been targeted at certain areas, such as the Street Crime Initiative and the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, and any discretionary allocations made by the regional director. This data is not held centrally or would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Crime: Offensive Weapons

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knife crimes were recorded in each police authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are published. [147854]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W.

Criminal Investigation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to police on limiting access of the media to information on the removal of material as evidence during the evidence-gathering phase of a police investigation to protect the rights of an accused person. [147970]

Mr. McNulty: The control and management of information during a police investigation is an operational matter for the chief officer of the force concerned. Guidance is provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Media Advisory Group to the police on working with the media and releasing information about individual cases. The guidance can be found at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/magguidelines.pdf.

Databases: Genetics

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of people whose DNA is held on the national database who have committed no offence. [147920]

Meg Hillier: The National DNA Database does not hold information on whether those on it have committed any offence. This is held on the Police National Computer but detailed cross-referencing between the two systems is not routinely available. Discussions are being held on being able to provide this information routinely in future.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since establishment; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million. [146335]

Mr. Byrne: Following the NAO report "Purchasing Professional Services" OGC issued guidance that re-defined consultancy to include the purchasing of all professional services and not just management consultancy. Professional services were defined as including: management consultancy, IS/IT consultancy, financial/accounting consultancy, property and construction consultancy (including architects and surveyors), project management, procurement, audit, legal services and human resource advice and assistance (including recruitment services).

We do not hold complete records for this entire period and therefore are unable to reliably identify those companies who have individual pieces of consultancy worth in excess of £10 million but from those records we do have we haven't identified any worth in excess of £10 million.

The information held by the Home Office and its Executive Agencies on its spend on consultants, which falls under the aforementioned definition; is as follows:

Financial year	Total spend on consultants (£)	Additional information
2000-01	31,196,722	—
2001-02	24,840,593	—
2002-03	Not held	—
2003-04	113,875,847	—
2004-05	59,828,639	—
2005-06	167,000,000	(Includes contractors and Interim Managers) and excludes spend by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) National Offender Management Services (NOMS) and Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR).
2006-07	157,000,000	(Includes contractors and Interim Managers) and excludes spend by HMPS, NOMS and OCJR.

For the years 2000-01 to 2006-07, other than where indicated, we are unable to abstract data relating to those areas of responsibility for the Department and its Agencies which have since been transferred to other Government Departments or Agencies under machinery of government changes.

We do not hold information on the Department's total expenditure on consultants for 2002-03 and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The best information available for the financial year 2003-04, using the Business and Accounting Strategic System (BASS) for the core Home Office spend, indicates that the cost of external consultants to the Department and its Executive Agencies in 2003-04 was £113,875,847.

The best information available for the financial year 2004-05, using the Adelphi Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system Accounts Payable Module for the core Home Office spend, indicates that the cost of external consultants to the Department and its Executive Agencies was £59,828,639.

The Department awards contracts in open competition according to the EU Procurement Regulations based on best value for money. The use of external consultants in the Home Office provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that is not otherwise available in house.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which external consultants have carried out work for her Department under contracts in each year since 1997. [146964]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold central records of the names of individual external consultants who have carried out work for the Department under contracts in each year since 1997 and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department's Enterprise and Resource Planning (ERP) system is able to identify the names of consultancy companies who have undertaken contracts for Home Office headquarters since May 2004.

Departments: Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers or officials from her Department attended the meeting of the National Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group on 27 June; what steps her Department is taking following the meeting; when she expects the next meeting to take place; whether she expects to attend the next meeting; and if she will make a statement. [148109]

Mr. McNulty: Home Office officials attended the last meeting of the National Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group on 27 June 2007. The Group was formally informed of the proposed transfer of work, including the secretariat function of the Group, to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) by September 2007. The transfer of policy responsibility is part of the wider programme of enhancement and integration of the work of the Police National Missing Persons Bureau into the NPIA by April 2008. The aim is to provide a fully coordinated approach to missing persons within the police service and to ensure that there is effective working together on this issue with stakeholders at national and local level. The next meeting of the Group is anticipated for October 2007.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146985]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps she has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147332]

Mr. Byrne: Of those staff paid by Home Office Pay Service, a total of 470 staff currently contribute to additional voluntary contribution (AVC) schemes. This represents 0.55 per cent. of employees. The figures cover the core Department, all agencies, all NDPBs and all other public bodies currently on the payroll and includes HM Prison Service.

Civil service pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension accrued to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Home Office Pensions Service sends out information to new staff or those who rejoin the pension scheme. This includes a leaflet setting out the principles of AVC schemes.

Individual employers within the Home Office may also provide information on the availability of AVCs. Staff in the core Department and the Border and Immigration Agency can access an intranet service which includes pension scheme information and includes links to the civil service pensions website.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147328]

Mr. Byrne: In its adherence to the June 2006 sustainable operations targets the Home Office is committed to deliver carbon savings by reducing carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations. The Home Office also has an ongoing programme of environmental awareness raising that encourages our

staff to minimise the impacts of their travel activities, including the provision of interest free loans for cycle purchases. No estimates on staff using public transport to commute are maintained centrally.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the unfinished research paper Review of Current Business Crime Research. [129080]

Jacqui Smith: The research review of Business Crime research was undertaken in November 2003. It was used internally but not placed into a final published report although it has now been released under the Freedom of Information Act. The cost of the research was £6,350.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the unpublished research paper Evaluation of the ACU Mentoring Programme. [129082]

Jacqui Smith: The research into the ACU Mentoring Programme was undertaken between April 2003 and March 2004. It was used internally but not placed into a final published report although it has now been released under the Freedom of Information Act. The cost of the research is estimated to have been £100,000.

Detainees: Transport

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1508W, on detainees: transport, how much was spent on in-country escorts for immigration detainees in each of the last five years. [147771]

Jacqui Smith: The total spent on in-country escorts for immigration detainees in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table. The expenditure covers all in-country escorting activity, not just between removal centres, and includes the operating costs for holding rooms, which form part of the overall in-country escorting contract. The rising costs reflect the greater escorting activity arising from increased removals activity over the last few years.

	£
2006-07	26,346,498
2005-06	26,130,498
2004-05	16,534,992
2003-04	14,229,000
2002-03	19,337,835

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to investigate misuse of Ritalin and other methylphenidate-based drugs for recreational purposes; [147502]

(2) what discussions she has had with her colleagues in the Department of Health on the use of Ritalin as a recreational drug. [147503]

Mr. Coaker: There have been no steps or discussions as the Home Office has no evidence, other than anecdotal, to suggest that Ritalin is being misused for recreational purposes.

Firearms: Crime Prevention

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed on Operation Trident; what assessment she has made of the merits of rolling out the programme to other large metropolitan cities; and if she will make a statement. [147139]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan police advise that the total number of people employed on Operation Trident is 375, which includes police staff as well as police officers.

We fully support the work of intelligence-led police operations such as Operation Trident and other operations to tackle guns and gangs.

Similar operations have been established in other areas affected by gun crime—for example, Operation XCaliber in Greater Manchester.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether fast track immigration controls apply to individuals travelling by helicopters and private aircraft. [146582]

Mr. Byrne: Fast track immigration facilities are currently only provided at Heathrow Terminals 1, 3 and 4 at the request of airlines and the airport operator, BAA . It is not therefore available to individuals arriving by helicopters and private aircraft.

Immigration Controls: Uniforms

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what formal consultation process was undertaken before deciding on *(a)* the need for a new uniform and *(b)* the design of the uniform for border security staff. [147779]

Jacqui Smith: The IND Review set out seven programmes for change. Programme seven states that we will

'Introduce a new visible presence and uniforms at our borders to strengthen deterrence and reassure the public'.

The design of the uniform was informed by a programme of consultation including staff focus groups. Staff representative groups and trade unions have also been fully consulted since the project began. The design took into account staff working conditions, views from staff representative groups and uniforms of like organisations.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Border and Immigration Agency last changed its uniform. [147780]

Jacqui Smith: Frontline Border Control staff within the Border and Immigration Agency will be uniformed for the first time by the end of September 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 30 May from the hon. Member for Walsall North (ref M11832/7). [147724]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 July 2007.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 30 May from the hon. Member for Walsall North (ref M11719/7). [147725]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 July 2007.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 29 May 2007 from the hon. Member for Woking on Mrs. A. Day, ref. B14852/7. [147828]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 2 July 2007.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to letters from the hon. Member for Woking dated 26 February, 30 March and 8 June concerning Mr. Lika, ref LR1918010943/1. [147829]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 4 July explaining the details of this case.

National Policing Improvement Agency

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1236W, on the National Policing Improvement Agency, when he expects the Chief Executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency to produce his first report on performance and issues facing the agency; how many times the Chief Executive will produce such reports per year; and whether each report will be published. [146694]

Mr. McNulty: The first report by the Chief Executive of NPIA to ministers on performance and issues facing the agency will be submitted in mid July 2007. The report will be submitted to Ministers on a quarterly basis and will not be a published document. The Chief Executive will produce an annual report published to Parliament soon after April 2008.

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the Pilot Evaluation Report on the operation of section 9 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004. [147756]

Jacqui Smith: The evaluation of the section 9 pilot was published on 25 June 2007 and is available on the Border and Immigration Agency website,

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/familyasylum.

A written ministerial statement detailing future implementation of the section 9 provision was also published on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 9WS.

Northumbria Police: Manpower

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* community support officers there were in the Northumbria police force area in each of the last 10 years. [147451]

Mr. McNulty: The information is shown in the following tables.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2006—Northumbria police force

	Number
As at 31 March:	
1996	3,668
1997	3,677
1998	3,769
1999	3,840
2000	3,788
2001	3,857
2002	3,929
2003	3,943
2004	4,040
2005	4,048
2006	3,983

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006[3]—Northumbria police force

	Number
As at 31 March:	
2003	0
2004	51
2005[4]	126
2006[5]	129

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Offensive Weapons: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries were caused by knife attacks in each London borough in (i) 2007 and (ii) each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement on the steps being taken to reduce knife crime, with particular reference to its prevalence among the young. [147486]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* Data for the number of fatalities caused by knives and sharp instruments is not available at borough level. The following table gives figures for the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas. Figures for the number of serious injuries caused by knife attacks are not currently available. However, new data collection arrangements from April 2007 will provide more detailed statistics on knife related violence. The British Crime Survey reports that knife crime as a proportion of all violent crime is broadly stable at 6-7 per cent.

There is, of course, grave concern at the recent tragic incidents involving young people and knife crime. Work on tackling knife crime is being taken forward through the Home Secretary's round table on guns, knives and gangs, which has developed an action plan focussing on the themes of policing, powers and prevention. Legislation has recently been tightened in relation to knives, with the doubling of the maximum sentence for possession of a bladed instrument in a public place without good reason from two to four years. In April, a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon (including a knife) was introduced; and in May school staff were given powers to search pupils for knives.

On 26 June, in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers, we published guidance on tackling knife enabled crime, to provide police officers with a menu of options which they might use in their area. We also support police work to tackle knife crime such as Operation Blunt, run by the Metropolitan police, and Operation Shield, run by the British Transport Police, which uses search arches and other technology to search people travelling on the transport network with weapons.

We recognise that policing and legislation are only part of the picture, however, and are also supporting educational projects such as the Be Safe programme, which helps young people understand the risks and consequences of carrying knives, and the Damilola Taylor Trust's "Respect Your Life, Not a Knife" campaign, which is encouraging young people to pledge not to carry weapons. We are also supporting local community organisations working to tackle knife crime through our Connected Fund. The sixth round of the fund was recently completed, and funding is now being provided to more than 100 projects in England and Wales to support local work.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: London 2003-04 to 2005-06

	All ages		*Victim aged under 16*	
Year[3]	*MPS*	*City of London*	*MPS*	*City of London*
2003-04	61	0	1	0
2004-05	60	0	1	0
2005-06	48	0	0	0

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: London 2003-04 to 2005-06

	All ages		*Victim aged under 16*	
Year[3]	*MPS*	*City of London*	*MPS*	*City of London*
Total	169	0	2	0

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] All sharp instruments, including knives.
[3] Homicides are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Security: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the evaluation of the miSense scheme. [147754]

Jacqui Smith: The summary of the evaluation of the miSense schemes was published on line on 19 June (visit www.misense.org) and copies are now available in the House of Commons Library.

Sexual Offences: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders in Wales are recorded as not living at their registered address. [146267]

Mr. Coaker: The police are not required to report this information to the Home Office.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders are registered in Wales, broken down by police force area. [146268]

Mr. Coaker: The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports for 2005-06 show that, on 31 March 2006, the total number of registered sex offenders in each police force area in Wales were as follows:

	Number
Dyfed-Powys	308
Gwent	391
North Wales	395
South Wales	680

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders are being monitored by police in Wales, broken down by police force. [146298]

Mr. Coaker: All registered sex offenders are monitored, under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), in line with individual risk management plans.

The MAPPA annual reports for 2005-06 show that, on 31 March 2006, the total number of registered sex offenders in each police force area in Wales were as follows:

	Number
Dyfed-Powys	308
Gwent	391
North Wales	395
South Wales	680

Stop and Search: Vehicles

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil, on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1518-22W, on stop and search: vehicles, how many searches in each category resulted in an arrest. [147767]

Jacqui Smith: The latest available information on the number of arrests resulting from search of a vehicle only is given in the table from 1998-99 to 2004-05.

Resultant arrests following total searches[1] of vehicles[2] and searches of vehicles under section 44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3], by police force area in England, 1999-2000 to 2004-05

	Resultant arrests of a vehicle only search	
Period/Police force area	*Total*	*Under section 44(1) Terrorism Act 2000[4]*
1998-99		
Avon and Somerset	6	—
Durham	1	1
West Mercia	2	—
Wiltshire	2	—
England	11	1
1999-2000		
Metropolitan Police	1	—
England	1	—
2000-01		
Cheshire	2	—
Hertfordshire	2	—
Kent	1	—
North Yorkshire	3	3
England	8	3
2001-02		
Greater Manchester	1	—
England	1	—
2002-03		
South Yorkshire	2	2
West Yorkshire	2	—
England	4	2
2003-04		
Gloucestershire	52	—
Greater Manchester	75	—
North Yorkshire	1	—
Staffordshire	10	—
West Yorkshire	6	—
England	144	—
2004-05		
Bedfordshire	1	—
Cambridgeshire	1	1
Cheshire	172	—
Greater Manchester	16	—
Sussex	1	1
England	191	2

[1] Total searches includes searches: under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; also included are other legislation which relates to searches under other powers, such as under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 section 15 (which since 19 February 2001 has been replaced by section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000); various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; the Aviation Security Act 1982, section 27(1); the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, s163 and 164; and the Sporting Events (control of Alcohol, etc.) Act 1985; section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; and section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly section 13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[2] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where an arrest has resulted from a 'vehicle only' search.

[3] Police force areas where no resultant arrests were recorded have been excluded from the table.

[4] Section 44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly section 13A of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Stops/Searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Terrorism: Arrests

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been re-arrested for a terrorist-related offence having previously been released before the end of the 28 days maximum pre-charge detention period under the Terrorism Act 2000, broken down by *(a)* year, *(b)* gender, *(c)* ethnicity and *(d)* religion. [147176]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The police have supplied the Home Office with detention, arrest and charge statistics under the Terrorism Act 2000 from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2006. However, the police do not routinely collate the information in the format and breakdown requested and to do so would be at a disproportionate cost. The Home Office is reviewing the future collation and publication of terrorism statistics, the collation of information on re-arrests will also be considered.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000, broken down by (i) year, (ii) gender, (iii) ethnicity and (iv) religion. [147177]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Home Office does not break down the information in the format requested. However, statistics on the number of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 are available on the Home Office website as follows.

The UK police terrorism arrest statistics (excluding Northern Ireland) from 11 September 2001 to 31 December 2006 show 1,166 arrests were made:

1,126 arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000

40 arrests under legislation other than the Terrorism Act, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation.

Of the total 1,166 arrested:

117 charged with terrorism legislation offences only

104 charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences

186 charged under other legislation including murder, grievous bodily harm, firearms, explosives offences, fraud, false documents

74 handed over to immigration authorities

3 on police bail awaiting charging decisions

1 warrant issued for arrest

12 cautioned

1 dealt with under youth offending procedures

10 dealt with under mental health legislation

4 transferred to Police Service of Northern Ireland custody

2 remanded in custody awaiting extradition proceedings

652 released without charge.

Of those charged:

40 Terrorism Act convictions to date

180 convicted under other legislation, including murder, grievous bodily harm, firearms, explosives offences, fraud, false documents

98 at or awaiting trial

4 at or awaiting trial for non-terrorism related offences only.

Source:

These statistics are compiled from police records by the offices of the National Co-ordinator for Terrorist Investigations. They are subject to change as cases go through the system.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 have been charged *(a)* within the first seven days, *(b)* between days 8 and 14, *(c)* between days 15 and 21 and *(d)* between days 22 and 28. [147181]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Home Office does not collate statistics for all the timescales requested. The 14 day detention period came into effect on 20 January 2004 and the maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. The following table compiled from police records, provides details of the numbers of individuals charged or released between 25 July 2006- 31 March 2007.

Terrorism Act pre-charge detention statistics—(25 July 2006 to 31 March 2007)

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released without charge*	*Other result*
14 to 15 days	1	1	—	—
15 to 16 days	—	—	—	—
16 to 17 days	—	—	—	—
17 to 18 days	—	—	—	—
18 to 19 days	—	—	—	—
19 to 20 days	3	3	—	—
20 to 21 days	—	—	—	—
21 to 22 days	—	—	—	—
22 to 23 days	—	—	—	—
23 to 24 days	—	—	—	—
24 to 25 days	—	—	—	—
25 to 26 days	—	—	—	—
26 to 27 days	—	—	—	—
27 to 28 days	6	3	3	—

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* charges and *(c)* convictions have been made for terrorist-related offences after a warrant had been executed under (i) the Terrorism Act 2000 and (ii) the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [147182]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* The Home Office does not collate information in this way. Statistics on the number of charges, arrests and charges under the Terrorism Act 2000 and under other legislation are available on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* detained, *(b)* released and *(c)* charged within the first 28 days of arrest under the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year, broken down by (i) gender, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) religion. [147041]

Mr. McNulty: In the period from 11 September 2001 to 31 December 2006 1,166 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 or under other legislation where the investigation had been conducted as a terrorist investigation.

Of these 1,166 arrests, 652 were released without charge and 407 were charged with criminal offences including offences under terrorism legislation. A full breakdown of the terrorism legislation statistics can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

The Home Office does not hold information on gender, ethnicity and religion of those arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases a suspect has been released before the end of the maximum 28 days pre-charge detention period under the Terrorism Act 2000 and then re-arrested following decryption of computer data or completion of other investigative work. [147311]

Mr. McNulty: This data is not centrally collated or stored by the Home Office.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases suspects detained under the Terrorism Act 2000 have been released because of insufficient time to decrypt heavily-encrypted computer data. [147312]

Mr. McNulty: This data is not centrally collated or stored by the Home Office.

Terrorism: Russia

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with the Russian Government on security strategies to deal with terrorist threats. [146248]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* Russia is a key ally in global efforts to overcome terrorism. To that end, we frequently discuss our perception of the current threats and our activity to counteract those threats with our Russian colleagues in international fora such as the United Nations and the G8, among others. The terrorist threat and strategies to counter the threat were key issues of discussion at the G8 JHA ministerial meeting in Munich in May, when the then Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith and I represented the UK. My right hon. Friend, the Member for Sedgefield (Mr. Blair) also attended the G8 Heiligendamm Summit in early July together with Russia's President Putin and other leaders. G8 leaders agreed two counter terrorism statements at the Heiligendamm summit to increase cooperation in meeting the shared challenges of global terrorism.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of stop and search there have been under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year, broken down by *(a)* city or other location, *(b)* gender, *(c)* ethnicity and *(d)* religion. [147203]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics on the use of Section 44 powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 are detailed within two annual Home Office publications titled: 'Home Office Statistical Bulletin on Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers Under PACE,' and 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System—A Home Office publication under Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991'.

These publications are annual and are available for each year since 2001. Information is available by ethnicity and at police force area level only. Data are not collected centrally by gender or religion. The publications detail Section 44 statistics by police force area and the Section 95 report details these statistics by ethnicity.

The links for the most recent of these publications are:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2105.pdf

and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/s95race05.pdf

UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for removing the UK's immigration reservation on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in 2004. [147358]

Mr. Byrne: The United Kingdom entered an immigration reservation when it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1986, in order to ensure that the Convention would not impede immigration policies and procedures in operation at the time. However, preparatory work for the implementation of the Human Rights Act 1998 subsequently ensured that all policies and practices operated by the then immigration and nationality directorate were non-discriminatory on the grounds of sex. An Interdepartmental Review of International Human Rights Instruments was carried out in 2004 and concluded that the reservation for immigration purposes was no longer appropriate and, therefore, the United Kingdom should withdraw its immigration reservation on this Convention.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider removing the UK's immigration reservation on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [147477]

Mr. Byrne: The UK supports the work that the United Nations is doing in improving standards of care for children in countries where care arrangements are non-existent or poor. In the UK our domestic laws honour the spirit of the Convention in relation to the standards of care and treatment available to children, including asylum-seeking children. The Government believe the reservation remains justified in order to maintain an effective immigration control. The Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges its signatories to put the 'best interests' of the child first in making decisions and there are a number of instances where this may prevent lawful immigration functions being carried out. The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women obliges signatories to treat men and women equally which creates less of a concern for carrying out immigration functions.

We provide protection to children subject to immigration control via the Children Act and other domestic legislation that requires the authorities to fulfil duties in relation to children; and also through the Human Rights Act.

In addition we are proposing to introduce a code of practice to ensure that in carrying out its functions in the UK the Border and Immigration Agency takes appropriate steps to keep children safe from harm while they are in the UK.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2007, to question 145164, on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, when the last occasion was that the *(a)* Border and Immigration Agency and *(b)* Independent Monitoring Board (i) scrutinised and (ii) monitored the length of time taken for staff Yarl's Wood Detention Centre to answer outside calls; and if she will make a statement. [147494]

Mr. Byrne: Neither the Border and Immigration Agency nor the Independent Monitoring Board scrutinise or monitor the length of time taken for staff at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre to answer outside telephone calls. The operating contract for Yarl's Wood requires the contractor to install sufficient pay telephones to meet the reasonable demands of detainees and/or dependants. It also includes the minimum number of staff required to operate the switchboard at any given time. Private sector contractors that operate removal centres on behalf of the Border and Immigration Agency are paid in accordance with the contract in that they deliver the service specified for the agreed amount. Any failure to provide the specified service results in a reduction in operating fee.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report,* columns 624-5W to the hon. Member for Hendon on Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Border and Immigration Agency's requirements in regard to the services to the detainees as outlined in the contract between her Department and Serco. [147773]

Jacqui Smith: It is the policy of the Border and Immigration Agency to deposit copies of the operating contracts, redacted in accordance with Freedom of Information Act, for Immigration Removal Centres in the House of Commons Library. The redacted contracts do not detail the services provided to detainees as they are exempt under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Yarl's Wood contract, having recently been re-tendered, will be deposited in the House of Commons Library later this year.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Children

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long each child held at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre had been there as of 2 July 2007. [147760]

Jacqui Smith: The number of children detained with their families solely under Immigration Act powers will change from day to day. However local management information indicates that as at 2 July 2007 there were 24 children detained at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre of which 13 have been detained for less than one month, nine for between one and two months and two in excess of two months.

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

Quarterly snapshots are published in the quarterly asylum bulletin, showing the number of people detained under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter. Statistics on the total number of persons leaving detention each quarter are also published in the quarterly asylum bulletin.

Published information on immigration and asylum is available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged *(a)* under five years, *(b)* five to 12 years and *(c)* 13 to 16 years passed through Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in each of the last 12 months. [147761]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of people who pass through Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

Children are detained only in two limited circumstances: first, as part of a family group whose detention is considered appropriate; second, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made, and normally just overnight. While the detention of families with children is very regrettable, it nevertheless remains necessary in appropriate cases in order to maintain an effective immigration control and to tackle abuses of the asylum system.

Period statistics covering those leaving detention during each quarter have been published in the Quarterly Asylum bulletin for the periods January-March 2005 to July September 2006, inclusive. These include the last recorded place of detention but not details of each Immigration Removal Centre passed through by the detainee. The Quarterly Asylum bulletins can be found on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Complaints

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many official complaints were received by the operator of Yarl's Wood Detention Centre in each month of the financial year 2006-07. [147759]

Jacqui Smith: In the financial year 2006-07, 172 complaints were received by the operator at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre, broken down as follows:

	Number
2006	
April	26
May	21
June	19
July	37
August	15
September	7
October	5
November	21
December	8
2007	
January	3
February	4
March	6

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Telephone Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the telephone at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre was not staffed and outside calls were left unanswered between 10.30am and 12.00pm on 28 June 2007. [147553]

Mr. Byrne: The switchboard at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre was fully staffed between 10.30am and 12.00pm on 28 June.

One member of staff gave out incorrect information to a caller stating that the time taken to answer the call was due to staff shortage. The staff operating the switchboard during this period have been reminded of the importance of communication between detainees, their families and legal advisors.

The switchboard at Yarl's Wood is somewhat dated and Serco, the contractor responsible for operating the centre, is looking at various options to help speed up the time taken to answer incoming calls.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 July 2007

TRANSPORT

A21: Repairs and Maintenance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her plans are for the A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Robertsbridge; and if she will make a statement. [148774]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. Under the regional funding allocation process it is for regions to advise the Government on schemes, which in their view, should be prioritised for funding. Ministers then take decisions on whether to accept that advice. In the case of the south east we have agreed in full to the recommendations made by the South East Regional Transport Board (RTB) for the period up to 2016. The proposed A21 upgrade between Flimwell and Robertsbridge has not been prioritised by the South East RTB in that period.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on bus subsidy in the North East of England, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* bus operator in each of the last 10 years. [147305]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1998, the Department has provided grants to local transport authorities through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, Rural and Urban Bus Challenge and Kickstart schemes. The table shows the total paid (in £s) to each authority in the North East region, and the regional total, for each year since the introduction of these grant schemes.

£

Authority	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Durham	654,510	899,816	604,510	771,913	1,081,482	1,308,014	1,601,018	1,326,172	989,295
Northumberland	306,850	370,808	538,043	680,503	1,300,344	1,970,099	1,425,497	1,113,527	1,113,904
Tyne and Wear	96,151	913,758	309,071	354,768	671,523	1,196,086	1,412,614	1,303,923	1,159,038
Darlington	31,912	31,584	41,659	61,742	70,668	602,155	364,605	317,201	100,726
Hartlepool	16,522	16,019	16,872	21,544	176,102	102,986	564,494	275,430	223,181
Middlesbrough	7,779	11,542	11,542	14,738	12,542	17,224	67,741	208,437	18,889
Redcar and Cleveland	30,713	56,497	68,039	77,142	82,573	84,311	162,490	148,156	184,245
Stockton-on-Tees	22,904	33,832	45,832	55,201	154,625	156,785	259,197	308,665	213,860
Total	1,167,341	2,333,856	1,635,568	2,037,551	3,549,859	5,437,660	5,857,656	5,001,511	4,003,138

The majority of local authority support for bus services is funded from the Government's unhypothecated Revenue Support Grant and from other sources.

The Department also provides Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) directly to operators of local bus services. Bus routes cross local authority borders and it is not possible to allocate BSOG payments to different local authority areas with sufficient accuracy; information on payments to individual operators is commercially confidential. However, we estimate that BSOG payments to operators in the North East region now total around £24 million annually.

Cycling

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure was made available for improving the convenience and safety of cycling in each of the last five years. [147084]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides a central budget for cycling which since 2005-06 has been the responsibility of Cycling England.

The details are:

£ million

	Resource/revenue	*Capital*
2005-06	1.8	3.2
2006-07	4.0	6.0

It is not possible to provide a split of funding between capital and revenue/resource for earlier years but central expenditure on cycling was as follows and largely related to capital expenditure.

	£ million
2002-03	2.2
2003-04	2.2
2004-05	10.5

Funds in 2002-03 and 2003-04 were for our Cycling Projects Fund while funds in 2004-05 supported additional safe links to school and additional cycle parking at rail stations. In addition the Department provides revenue/resource funds through its Road Safety Grant Challenge Scheme. Details of the cycling grants awarded were as follows:

	£
2002-03	8,473
2003-04	2,676
2004-05	19,800
2005-06	0
2006-07	4,600

The majority of expenditure on cycling is spent by local highway authorities who receive capital funding from the Department through the Local Transport Plan system since 2001-02. We have no information on revenue spending. English authorities outside London have informed the Department that their investment in cycle facilities is as follows for the last five years:

	£ million
2001-02	29.6
2002-03	39.9
2003-04	32.1
2004-05	40.0
2005-06	34.1

London boroughs also receive funding from the Department via a block settlement through Transport for London (TfL) and with other revenue streams. TfL has advised the Department that their investment in cycling facilities since 2001-02 is as follows and that around 80 per cent. of this money has been spent on physical infrastructure much of it to support the London Cycle Network+.

	£ million
2001-02	12.5
2002-03	11.6
2003-04	12.7
2004-05	13.1
2005-06	18.3

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147591]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following payments have been made to Common Purpose over the last five years:

	£
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	1,161
2006-07	12,053
2007-08 (to date)	6,462

These payments relate to leadership development for senior managers within the Department to meet their individual development needs. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the development in meeting these needs has been, or will be, carried out by the individuals and their managers.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147344]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An estimate covering the full Department is not currently available, however the most recent survey of our London HQ buildings indicated that 92 per cent. of staff in the London HQ travel to work by cycling, walking or via public transport. The remaining 8 per cent. used a car or motorbike to travel to work.

DfT has plans to carry out new staff surveys as part of a development of site specific travel plans, which are due to be finalised by April 2008.

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effect on road safety of introducing a sliding scale of penalty points on a driving licence for speeding offences of varying gravity. [148378]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport issued a discussion note inviting comments on this in September 2004. The principle of a graduated scale was supported by the majority of respondents, and the Road Safety Act 2006 provides an enabling power to graduate the fixed penalty points awarded for speeding offences.

The Department's objective is to help drivers to travel at safe and legal speeds at all times. The proposals for graduated speeding penalties are designed to recognise there are considerable differences in the degree of excessive speeding by motorists and for the punishment to better fit the crime. A graduated structure would allow more careful consideration of drivers who through lapses of concentration breach the speed limit by a relatively small amount and where even two penalty points are expected to act as a sufficient deterrent to prevent re-offending. It would also allow for a higher penalty of six penalty points to act as a strong deterrent against more extreme speeders who exceed the speed limit by large amounts.

The proposed final graduated penalty structure will be subject to statutory public consultation before it is considered by both Houses under the affirmative resolution procedure.

Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with councils on the introduction of low emission zones; [148442]

(2) what discussions she has had with local authorities on the introduction of low emission zones. [148544]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is for individual authorities to decide how best to work towards meeting air quality objectives locally. However, the Department for Transport liaises with local authorities via the Low

Emissions Strategy forum, which shares knowledge and best practice to help local authorities to improve air quality, including low emission zones. The Department is also working closely with Transport for London to support the implementation of the Mayor's London Low Emission Zone.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider introducing national guidelines for the rules and scope of local low emission zones. [148443]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are currently no plans to produce specific national guidelines on low emission zones for local authorities. However, the Department issued guidance to local authorities about their second local transport plans in December 2004. That guidance indicated that all authorities should consider whether local air quality problems need to be tackled in the transport plan. Where air quality management areas had been declared related to local transport, councils must consider what action to take.

Railways: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to support improvements in the Felixstowe to Nuneaton railway line before the final deadline for proposals for Trans-European Transport Network funding on 20 July. [148775]

Mr. Tom Harris: The development of this scheme overall is not at present sufficiently mature for submission to the EC for TEN-T funds. However, the contribution which Hutchison Ports UK has agreed to make to the Felixstowe-Peterborough element increases the prospects of other elements of the improvements in question being funded from other sources in due course.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with interested parties on proposals to improve the Felixstowe to Nuneaton railway line. [148776]

Mr. Tom Harris: Discussions are continuing with interested parties on proposals for improvements west of Peterborough. Separately, an application has been made to the Secretary of State for an Order under the Transport and Works Act to authorise improvements to the Ipswich-Felixstowe branch line, and Hutchison Ports has agreed to fund these works (if approved) as well as gauge clearance as far as Peterborough.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of staff in her office are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps she has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147334]

Helen Goodman: Currently no members of my private office staff (11 people) make voluntary contributions to their pensions.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on operations for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Keetch: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will ask Parliamentary Information and Communication Service (PICT) to carry out a customer survey of hon. and right hon. Members' satisfaction with the new personal digital assistants supplied by PICT; and if he will make a statement. [148366]

Nick Harvey: The Board of Management surveyed all Members and their paid staff earlier this year. One question asked was how satisfied they were with the quality and reliability of remote access to the parliamentary network using a parliamentary issued handheld PDA. Of the 92 Members who answered the question 8 per cent. were extremely satisfied, 17 per cent. very satisfied, 30 per cent. fairly satisfied, 23 per cent. not very satisfied and 14 per cent. not at all satisfied. A qualitative survey is being planned to explore areas of dissatisfaction in more detail.

Portcullis House

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will bring forward plans to put signage on the entrances to the first floor of Portcullis House to indicate the location of rooms in the building. [147799]

Nick Harvey: The architects of the building, Sir Michael Hopkins and Partners, have been appointed to carry out improvements to the signage, especially on the first floor.

Their initial proposals for consideration include reconfiguring the electronic signage to make it easier to use, as well as the provision of additional signage in the entrance and lavatory areas.

Subject to reaching agreement on the viability and effectiveness of the proposals, the work is scheduled to be undertaken during the financial year 2007-08. As a temporary measure, plans which show the location of rooms have been placed at each corner and on each side of the first floor.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of staff in the Law Officers' Departments were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years. [145687]

The Solicitor-General: The percentages of staff in my Departments over 60 years of age in each of the last of three years, and in the year to-date are shown in the following table:

	Percentage of staff over 60			
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
CPS	1.27	1.48	2.05	2.42
SFO	1.65	2.21	1.03	1.93
TSol	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.4
HMCPSI	2.08	0	0	0
RCPO	[1]—	2	2	2

[1] Department not in existence

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by her Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145694]

The Solicitor-General: The relevant information is shown in the following table:

	Over 55		*Over 60*	
	New recruits	*Percentage of new recruits*	*New recruits*	*Percentage of new recruits*
Treasury Solicitor/ Attorney-General Departments				
2004-05	2	1.5	0	0
2005-06	53	1.3	0	0
2006-07	92	1.0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office				
2004-05	3	7.3	0	0
2005-06	1	1.75	1	1.75
2006-07	4	7.4	1	1.85
Crown Prosecution Service				
2004-05	16	2.71	0	0
2005-06	13	2.39	0	0
2006-07	4	0.89	0	0
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office				
2005-06	2	6.0	0	0
2006-07	2	3.0	0	0
2007—to date	0	0	0	0
HMCPSI				
2004-05	1	2.08	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0
2006-07	1	2.13	0	0

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cleaning Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his policy is on levying laundry charges on soldiers participating in training exercises, with particular reference to those at Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain; [146299]

(2) how much was collected in laundry charges from soldiers participating in training exercises at Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain in 2006-07; and what the cost to each soldier is for the use of *(a)* washing and *(b)* drying facilities; [146300]

(3) if he will make it his policy to end charging for the use of laundry facilities for soldiers participating in training exercises at Westdown Camp, Salisbury Plain; and if he will make a statement; [146301]

(4) whether it is a requirement that soldiers *(a)* participating in training exercises and *(b)* on active deployment should maintain their clothing in clean and hygienic condition, where facilities are available; and if he will make a statement. [146302]

Derek Twigg: When on training exercises at Westdown Camp (or any other training location), units have the option, during pre-exercise planning, to request that laundry facilities be secured via established contractual arrangements from service providers within the local area. Such services are publicly funded and therefore free of charge to the soldier. It is a matter for Units to decide whether or not to take advantage of these arrangements, they may either utilise the facilities available at Westdown Camp or they may hand-wash and dry their laundry themselves.

The facilities at Westdown Camp are self-operated facilities provided under contract for the convenience of soldiers. During the period January 2006 to June 2007 the income to the contractor arising from the use of the washing/drying machines at Westdown Camp was approximately £7,500. A further £1,500 was taken in commission by the Defence Training Estate Strategic Partner LANDMARC Support Services (LSS). Under established revenue sharing arrangements 70 per cent. of this total (£1,050) was reinvested back into the maintenance of the training estate. The cost to each soldier to use these facilities is £2.00 for washing and £1.00 for drying.

Soldiers are responsible for maintaining their own personal hygiene, and this is instilled through effective training, leadership, education and example setting, particularly by Commanders. Personal hygiene is covered in soldiers Phase One training and reinforced annually through Military Annual Training Test 6 (Values and Standards). It is also covered in all pre-operational and exercise deployment health and hygiene presentations delivered by service environmental health staffs.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make available the most recent review by the Defence Dental Services of dental treatment for service families in the UK, and place a copy of the review in the Library. [145196]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force exceeded their separated service guidelines in the last period for which figures are available. [148231]

Derek Twigg: The information is shown in the following table:

	Percentage
Army	12.4
Royal Navy	<1
Royal Air Force	6.2

Departments: Ministerial Powers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence of which ministerial directions his Department has been notified since 22 November 2006. [148221]

Des Browne: I assume that the hon. Member is seeking ministerial directions since the answer given by the Financial Secretary on 22 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1910W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice).

There has been one ministerial direction since 22 November 2005. On 29 June 2006, I directed the Accounting Officer to proceed with the formal underwriting of the Armed Forces Memorial (AFM) in the sum of £3.3 million which represented the balance the AFM Trustees required fully to fund the project.

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel he expects will be based at MOD St. Athan when the new military academy is complete. [147282]

Derek Twigg: The scale of the facility to be constructed at St. Athan is dependent upon the outcome of further work with the Metrix Consortium which is exploring the possibility of a Whole Programme Solution.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will *(a)* instigate a moratorium on transporting nuclear warheads to Scotland by road during the current critical security alert and *(b)* ensure that any warheads currently ready for delivery are disassembled and remain at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [147861]

Des Browne: The safety and security of the UK nuclear weapons is paramount. Any transportation is kept to a minimum consistent with operational requirements and all such movements are kept under constant review. This includes an advance evaluation of all relevant factors, including the risks and threats prevalent at the time, and involves close liaison with all appropriate stakeholders, including the civil authorities. Each movement is subject to procedures that are robust and sensitive to changing circumstances and priorities, commensurate with national defence and security requirements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products: Prices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2086-88W, on agricultural products: prices, what the farmgate price was of each product; and where there is no equivalent farmgate price, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that such a comparative analysis is available. [147587]

Jonathan Shaw: The answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1665-66W, provided the farmgate prices for the nearest equivalent products to those for which retail prices were given in the answer of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2086-88W.

There was a close match for many of the items. The nearest equivalent farmgate products for meat cuts are deadweight whole animals. The nearest equivalent farmgate product for flour is milling wheat. Farmgate prices for eggs by size category are not published because of a risk of disclosure of confidential information.

Agriculture in the United Kingdom (Table 7.2 in the 2006 edition) provides an analysis of farmers share of a basket of food items.

Agriculture: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of Cornwall's total gross value added was represented by farming in each year since 1996. [147733]

Jonathan Shaw: Please find as follows figures showing the proportion of GVA for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that is represented by agriculture. Figures for the South West region have also been provided as background information.

Agricultural gross value added at basic prices

	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly		*South West*	
	GVA in £ million	*Percentage of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly total GVA*	*GVA in £ million*	*Percentage of SW total GVA*
1996	175	5.1	1,156	2.3
1997	153	4.3	1,023	1.9

Agricultural gross value added at basic prices

	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly		*South West*	
	GVA in £ million	*Percentage of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly total GVA*	*GVA in £ million*	*Percentage of SW total GVA*
1998	141	3.7	891	1.5
1999	138	3.5	852	1.4
2000	121	2.8	759	1.2
2001	124	2.7	800	1.2
2002	138	2.8	880	1.2
2003	162	3.0	963	1.3
2004	155	2.7	897	1.1
2005	129	[1]—	706	0.8

[1] Not yet available

Agriculture: Subsidies

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers received single payment scheme payments of *(a)* between £50,000 and £500,000, *(b)* between £500,001 and £1 million and *(c)* over £1 million in 2006. [146243]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The numbers of claimants who have received payments to date for the single payment scheme year 2006 are as follows:

	Number
(a) Between £50,000 and £500,000	6,451
(b) Between £500,001 and £1 million	16
(c) Over £1 million	6

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether all single farm payments for the year 2006 have been paid in full. [146244]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* As of 30 June 2007 the total value of payments made under the single payment scheme for 2006 is £1.49 billion, which is 98 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.52 billion.

A total of 107,088 customers have received either a full or partial payment. This represents 98.2 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of claimants still awaiting payment under the 2005 Single Farm Payment scheme in *(a)* England, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* Forest of Dean. [148276]

Jonathan Shaw: In England, as of 13 June 2007, 20 claimants have not received a payment for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS).

As of 30 June 2007 the total value of payments made under the SPS for 2006 is £1.49 billion, which is 98 per cent. of the estimated total fund of £1.52 billion.

A total of 107,088 customers have received either a full or partial payment. This represents 98.2 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Animal Welfare: Dogs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring forward legislation to ban the use of electric shock collars for dogs. [146584]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to ban the use of electric shock collars. However, we recognise that future research into electric shock collars is a priority. The Department has circulated a new call for research, in the form of a Limited Tender Call, with the aim of taking forward any research on or after April 2007. The aim is to obtain independent scientific evidence so that a decision can be taken as to whether or not there is a need for regulation in this area.

We have also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, in its role as advisory body to the Government on companion animal welfare matters, to undertake an independent study of available evidence on the use of electronic training devices. The outcome of this study will help inform DEFRA policy and will complement any separate research that DEFRA commissions into these devices.

If regulation were considered necessary there would be a full public consultation before any regulations were drafted and put to Parliament. All research into these areas commissioned by the Government will be put in the public domain.

Animal Welfare: Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department for Education and Skills on introducing animal welfare education classes to schools. [146583]

Jonathan Shaw: No such discussions have taken place. However, I am aware that in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), pupils learn to "take and share responsibility", which can include looking after animals properly. In addition, many local authorities run their own animal welfare education schemes in schools. For example, both Coventry city council and the London borough of Lambeth give regular performances and presentations on animal welfare at primary and secondary schools. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also provides teaching resources for animal welfare education for use in classrooms.

Beef: Brazil

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his officials last visited Brazil to check the traceability and identification procedures required for beef exports to the EU. [147423]

Jonathan Shaw: The conditions that apply to beef imported into the EU are set out in EU law and it is the responsibility of the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) to visit exporting countries to ensure that their procedures are adequate to guarantee compliance with EU import conditions.

The last visit to Brazil by FVO inspectors took place in March this year. Commissioner Kyprianou himself visited Brazil in October 2006.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timescale is for the next stage of work of the bovine TB Vaccine Programme Advisory Group. [146620]

Jonathan Shaw: The Vaccine Programme Advisory Group provides advice on the science needed to progress towards a vaccine for use in the field.

The research programme for producing an effective vaccine against tuberculosis in badgers and cattle remains broadly in line with the timetable outlined in the 1997 Krebs Report. This estimated:

I. Years 1 to 5: Identification of candidate vaccines and development of differential diagnostic tests;

II. Years 5 to 10: Experimental investigations of vaccination protocols;

III. Years 10 to 15: Field trials.

The first stage started in 1999 and is ongoing. The second stage has also started. Work on badger vaccines includes a project on developing oral formulations and a three-and-a-half year vaccine field trial to gather safety data and assess efficacy on injectable Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG). The cattle vaccine research programme includes a natural transmission study looking at various candidate vaccines.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the research protocol agreed with Warwick university and others to examine the use of the Polymerase Chain Reaction test for the detection of bovine tuberculosis. [147421]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA publishes the objectives of all research projects it commissions on its science website, once the contracts have been signed. This will be the case with the planned project to validate Polymerase Chain Reaction methods to detect bovine tuberculosis to be undertaken co-operatively by Warwick university, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and University College London.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Research

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided for the Woodchester studies of bovine tuberculosis and badgers in each of the last 10 years. [147395]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA fund a range of research work with the Central Science Laboratory's (CSL) research team based at Woodchester Park. The following amount of funding has been provided by DEFRA for the ecological and epidemiological study of the badger population at Woodchester Park:

1997-98: £260,877

1998-99: £278,408

Between 1999-2000 and 2002-03 the study was supported by two DEFRA projects. It has not been possible to disentangle the amounts spent on the ecological and epidemiological study of the badger population at Woodchester Park in 1999-2000 and 2000-01, however CSL estimate the following for 2001-02 and 2002-03:

2001-02: £268,000

2002-03: £268,000

Between 2004-05 and 2006-07 the project that supported this study also supported an investigation of perturbation. The following figures are an estimate provided by CSL of the amount of funding used for the study of the Woodchester Park badger population alone:

2003-04: £273,000

2004-05: £298,000

2005-06: £288,000

2006-07: £294,000

Cattle: Exports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 380W, on cattle: exports, what the journey time in hours was of all calves aged under 42 days exported to the Netherlands between 1 January and 30 April. [147730]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 64W, on cattle: exports, how many UK calves aged under 42 days died during journeys from the UK to Spain between 1 January and 30 April; how many 24 hour rest periods per journey were provided during the transport of calves from the UK to various destinations in Spain; and if he will make a statement. [147731]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Cheese: Production Methods

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of cheese manufactured in the UK from imported milk powder. [147420]

Jonathan Shaw: The estimate of the quantity of cheese manufactured in the UK from imported milk powder is unavailable.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146097]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials throughout the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are involved in a full range of EU business. 11 officials from the Department are currently seconded to the European Commission. The Department does not hold central records of the numbers of officials involved in EU business and a breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1361W, on Departments: manpower, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to those on the Priority Movers List. [146888]

Jonathan Shaw: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146418]

Jonathan Shaw: Payment of non-consolidated performance bonuses reflects the principle across the civil service of rewarding performance increasingly through one-off payments rather than increases to basic salary.

Annual performance bonuses are paid to staff in the SCS for high performance sustained throughout the whole year.

Information on annual performance bonuses prior to November 2004 is available only at disproportionate cost, as a result of system changes.

For 2005 and 2006, the number of annual performance bonuses awarded and the total cost of these bonuses was as follows:

	Number of staff awarded bonuses	*Total amount of bonuses paid (£)*
2005	148	740,877
2006	131	986,632

The data relate to bonuses awarded to those in core-DEFRA and its Executive Agencies (excluding chief executives) in accordance with Cabinet Office arrangements.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146988]

Jonathan Shaw: Data prior to November 2004, is available only at disproportionate cost. For the period from November 2004 to November 2006, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 7 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 578W.

For the period from January 2007 to May 2007, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 69W.

For December 2006, the month not covered by the two replies above, In-Year and Annual Performance bonuses totalling £78,218 were awarded to 154 staff below the SCS, covered by core-DEFRA pay arrangements, i.e. staff in core-DEFRA, Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147527]

Jonathan Shaw: 126 members of staff in core-DEFRA, Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service (2.2 per cent. of the total number of staff) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146917]

Jonathan Shaw: The 2006-07 Performance Management arrangements for staff in the SCS have been concluded.

For staff below the SCS in core-DEFRA and those agencies covered by the core-Department's performance appraisal arrangements (including Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service) the process has still to be concluded.

However, to date (up to 30 June 2007), eight staff had not achieved an acceptable mark in their 2006-07 annual report.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147043]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest sickness absence information available is for the 12 months ending on 31 March 2007. During this period, the number of staff in DEFRA who took sick absences of fewer than 5 days was as follows:

	Number
(a) five or more periods	274
(b) four periods	217
(c) three periods	289
(d) two periods	575

These figures include staff who left the Department during or after this 12-month period and Rural Development Service staff before they transferred to Natural England on 1 October 2006.

Environment Agency: Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expenditure of the Shrewsbury Environment Agency's offices was in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006. [147668]

Mr. Woolas: The Shrewsbury office was the main office for the Upper Severn Area of the Midlands Region of the Environment Agency during the period in question. The catchment extends from Market Drayton and Oswestry in the north, Clywedog and Vyrnwy reservoirs in the west, Dudley and Wolverhampton in the east and south to Worcester and Ludlow.

The analysis of expenditure in the following table is by financial year, which runs from April to March:

	Spend (£ million)
2003-04	13.5
2004-05	16.3
2005-06	15.4
2006-07	13.2

Environment Agency: Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency about revising their flood risk assessment models; and if he will make a statement. [147433]

Mr. Woolas: My predecessor met with the chief executive and the head of flood risk management at the Environment Agency on 28 June and visited areas affected by the recent flooding. Risk assessment issues and the protection of vulnerable communities were discussed.

My Department works closely with the Environment Agency on improving assessment models through joint research and development work.

Environment Agency: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased and *(c)* hired by the Environment Agency for use by its (i) staff and (ii) board members. [146292]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has 89 owned cars within its badged fleet and 4,701 leased cars. The agency hired 3,435 cars during the 2006-07 financial year with an average length of hire of 2.6 days.

Farmers: Income

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average annual earnings of farmers in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [147428]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not available in the precise form requested and the Farm Business Survey is not able to provide figures for *(a)* Ribble Valley. The following table shows average net farm income per farm in *(b)* the north-west Government office region and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1980-81. Data are not available on a comparable basis for earlier years.

Average net farm income

	North-west	*£ per farm United Kingdom*
1980-81	10,788	7,013
1981-82	18,460	10,005
1982-83	11,519	11,341
1983-84	13,734	10,714
1984-85	16,163	11,817
1985-86	9,630	6,675
1986-87	13,296	10,011
1987-88	11,733	11,571
1988-89	16,082	12,319

Average net farm income

	North-west	£ per farm United Kingdom
1989-90	20,311	15,482
1990-91	15,995	14,288
1991-92	17,621	15,250
1992-93	20,558	19,166
1993-94	26,134	21,923
1994-95	24,006	24,123
1995-96	29,009	31,776
1996-97	24,389	26,027
1997-98	15,082	12,213
1998-99	9,086	8,512
1999-2000	7,277	6,639
2000-01	15,179	8,666
2001-02	21,383	12,992
2002-03	17,108	13,728
2003-04	21,243	23,932
2004-05	16,596	17,991
2005-06	16,293	17,508

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It excludes all income arising from outside the farm business.

Farmers: Low Incomes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of farmer households in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England were below the modified low income threshold in each year for which figures are available. [147704]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number and proportion of farmer households below the modified low income threshold in Cornwall, the South West and England in 2005-06. Farm household income data are not available prior to this. Data for 2006-07 will become available in the first half of 2008.

	Estimated number of farm households below the modified low income threshold	*Estimated proportion of households below the modified low income threshold (percentage)*
Cornwall	800	55
South West GOR	4,300	37
England	19,100	31

Source:
Farm Business Survey, 2005-06

Farmers: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers there were in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979; and what proportion of the total work force they made up. [147431]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of farmers and total agricultural work force in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England and the proportion of the total UK work force they made up for 1992-2006. These are the figures that are most readily available. Figures for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

PQ 3543 Numbers of farmers and agricultural labour in Ribble Valley local authority, the North West region and England

(a) Ribble Valley

	Farmers	*As percentage of total UK work force*	*Agricultural labour*	*As percentage of total UK work force*
1992	1,277	0.00	1,861	0.01
1993	1,309	0.00	1,884	0.01
1994	1,290	0.00	1,887	0.01
1995	1,253	0.00	1,818	0.01
1996	1,266	0.00	1,803	0.01
1997	1,253	0.00	1,797	0.01
1998	1,255	0.00	1,795	0.01
1999	1,245	0.00	1,728	0.01
2000	1,274	0.00	1,646	0.01
2001	1,323	0.00	1,697	0.01
2002	1,278	0.00	1,639	0.01
2003	1,218	0.00	[1]—	[1]—
2004	1,254	0.00	1,633	0.01
2005	1,243	0.00	1,576	0.01
2006	1,251	0.00	1,576	0.01

(b) North West

	Farmers	*As percentage of total UK work force*	*Agricultural labour*	*As percentage of total UK work force*
1992	27,402	0.10	46,312	0.17
1993	27,605	0.10	46,147	0.17
1994	27,504	0.10	46,155	0.17
1995	26,461	0.09	45,148	0.16
1996	26,412	0.09	45,026	0.16
1997	26,199	0.09	44,593	0.16
1998	26,536	0.09	44,280	0.15
1999	26,024	0.09	42,020	0.14
2000	27,548	0.09	41,696	0.14
2001	28,670	0.10	42,413	0.14
2002	27,392	0.09	40,317	0.13
2003	26,601	0.09	38,340	0.13
2004	27,065	0.09	39,347	0.13
2005	26,824	0.09	39,097	0.13
2006	27,113	0.09	39,016	0.12

(c) England

	Farmers	*As percentage of total UK work force*	*Agricultural labour*	*As percentage of total UK work force*
1992	213,337	0.8	420,074	1.5
1993	216,094	0.8	417,619	1.5
1994	215,010	0.8	410,809	1.5
1995	208,050	0.7	400,887	1.4
1996	207,807	0.7	396,786	1.4
1997	206,421	0.7	393,105	1.4
1998	208,156	0.7	396,557	1.4
1999	203,362	0.7	379,018	1.3

(c) England

	Farmers	As percentage of total UK work force	Agricultural labour	As percentage of total UK work force
2000	220,934	0.7	374,291	1.3
2001	233,738	0.8	386,732	1.3
2002	225,521	0.7	371,824	1.2
2003	219,123	0.7	354,381	1.2
2004	224,449	0.7	367,585	1.2
2005	223,008	0.7	364,891	1.2
2006	223,769	0.7	361,017	1.1

[1] Suppressed to maintain confidentiality. 2003 data for total labour in Ribble Valley are taken from a larger published dataset and have been suppressed to protect a total in another area where the value refers to a small number of holdings only.

Notes:

1. Figures prior to 2000 cover main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include main and minor holdings. A minor holding has to meet all the following conditions:
(a) have a total area of less than six hectares
(b) a total labour requirement of less than 100 standard person days
(c) no regular full-time farmer or worker
(d) a glasshouse area of less than a 100 square metres
(e) the occupier does not farm another holding
2. Estimates have been made for holdings not selected or not responding.
3. Office of National Statistics total labour force figures include all work force categories (employed, self-employed, HM forces and Government supported trainees).
4. Agricultural labour force includes:
(a) principal farmers, spouses and business partners
(b) salaried managers, regular and casual/gang workers
5. Due to the introduction of new questions in 1998 figures prior to this year are not directly comparable with earlier years' results.
6. Due to a register improvement exercise in 2001 labour figures prior to this are not directly comparable with later results.

Sources:

1. June Agricultural Survey
2. Office for National Statistics

Flood Control: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on flood defences for Shrewsbury in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [147677]

Mr. Woolas: Flood defence spending in Shrewsbury, over the period requested, was as follows:

	Spend (£)
2005-06	6,079,000
2006-07	3,656,000

Expenditure is by financial year, which runs from April to March.

The Shrewsbury office covered the Environment Agency's Upper Severn Area of the Midlands Region during 2005 and 2006.

The catchment extends from Market Drayton and Oswestry in the north, Clywedog and Vyrnwy reservoirs in the west, Dudley and Wolverhampton in the east and south to Worcester and Ludlow.

Expenditure of £134,000 in 2005-06 and £43,000 in 2006-07 was incurred on temporary flood defences for Coton Hill and Coleham Head, Shrewsbury. The £3.5 million Frankwell scheme was completed in 2003-04.

Flood Protection: Urban Areas

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to protect city centres against *(a)* flood events and *(b)* likely impacts of climate change; [146568]

(2) what steps are being taken *(a)* in Sheffield and *(b)* at a national level to improve drainage systems in city centres to cope with (i) flood risks and (ii) climate change. [146569]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Increased flood risk, from both rivers and the sea, is one of the top predicted impacts of climate change in the UK. We are considering the rising risk from climate change as part of our long-term strategy, 'Making Space for Water'. The strategy takes a holistic approach to the management of risk across Government, together with increasing awareness and emergency preparedness within communities to help them better cope with flood events when they occur.

In January 2007, as part of 'Making Space for Water', we announced the start of 15 integrated urban drainage pilot studies around the country. The projects, made possible by £1.7 million of funding from DEFRA, will test new approaches to reduce the risk of urban drainage flooding, both from sewers and storm water.

While the pilot projects will not directly fund capital improvements, they should bring greater clarity on responsibilities for funding urban drainage management between water companies, local authorities, the Environment Agency, internal drainage boards and the Highways Agency. Following completion of the pilot projects in the spring of 2008, DEFRA will produce new guidance on effective partnership working to deliver integrated drainage solutions in high-risk urban catchments and prepare a regulatory impact assessment for any proposed legislative changes.

In addition, water companies' price limits for 2005-10 allowed a programme of nearly £1 billion to safeguard homes against the risk of sewer flooding. This would resolve or mitigate every known high-risk problem of internal flooding from overloaded sewers where companies' plans said is needed by 2010. By then the proportion of properties at risk would reduce to 0.01 per cent. of households.

Floods: Kingston upon Hull

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the planned levels of spending on the flood protection and water drainage infrastructure serving Kingston upon Hull will be re-examined to meet the effects of climate change. [146592]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has produced a Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy for the whole of the Humber estuary over the next 100 years. This takes into account anticipated climate change and sea level rise.

The agency study was in the process of being extended to cover river flooding issues in and around Hull. Clearly, in the light of recent events in the city,

there will be a need for the Environment Agency, the city council and Yorkshire Water to consider together the adequacy of current drainage systems as a whole and whether any further works need to be planned.

Floods: Safety Measures

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how health and safety advice is being disseminated to those whose homes have recently been flooded and who wish to re-enter and restore their properties. [146615]

Mr. Woolas: Information about health risks from flooding has been published on the Health Protection Agency's website and is being disseminated via primary care trusts.

Floods: Sheffield

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any flood defence failures occurred in the recent flooding in Sheffield. [146567]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 June2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the then Secretary of State on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 163, in which he explained that it is too early to make a full assessment of the recent flooding but that there had been no reported structural failings of flood defences.

Floods: Warnings

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people in Sheffield whose homes were flooded in June 2007 who were registered with Flood Warnings Direct; at what time and at what stage in the flooding the Flood Warnings Direct warnings went out to those registered; and what steps his Department is taking to encourage people in Sheffield to register with Flood Warnings Direct. [146614]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the numbers of flooded properties and those registered with Flood Warnings Direct (FWD) will be gathered after the current emergency has ended.

Since 2000, the Environment Agency has contacted people at risk of flooding and asked them to register with FWD. The agency has also carried out a series of home visits throughout west Yorkshire to boost the number of registered properties. This is an effective way of increasing the coverage of FWD and the agency aims to repeat the process in south Yorkshire later this year.

Forestry

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much timber was harvested in England in each of the last five years. [148124]

Joan Ruddock: The estimate of timber harvested in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available is given in the table.

	Removals in million green tonnes		
	Softwood (from conifer trees)	*Hardwood (from broadleaved trees)*	*Total*
2001	1.65	0.56	2.21
2002	1.51	0.54	2.05
2003	1.66	0.49	2.16
2004	1.73	0.45	2.18
2005	1.74	0.52	2.26

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes are in place to replace areas of woodland lost to development with new areas of planting. [148129]

Joan Ruddock: There is no specific programme in place to replace areas of woodland lost to development. Nevertheless, there is significantly more new woodland created in England each year than is lost to development.

Forests: Conservation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a system is in place to monitor the conservation of ancient woodlands. [148094]

Joan Ruddock: The conservation of ancient woodland is monitored in a number of ways including the National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees, which provides data on area, ownership, species composition, age, regeneration and ecological structure of all woodland. The Ancient Woodland Inventory is updated by Natural England when changes are reported and it is being revised in some of the most well wooded parts of South East England. 15 per cent. of England's ancient woodland is in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where their condition is monitored.

GMOs: Potatoes

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if his Department will require BASF to conduct food safety studies of their GM blight resistant potatoes on the same lines as those required by the Irish government for trials in that country; [147246]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential health impacts from contamination of non-GM potato crops resulting from trials of BASF GM blight resistant potatoes. [147245]

Mr. Woolas: The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment has assessed these trials and is satisfied that they will not have any adverse effect on human health or the environment. Given the limited scale of the trials and the management conditions that have been imposed, it is not expected that there will be any transfer of a GM presence into non-GM potato

crops. In that context, and given that the GM potatoes will not be used for food or feed, it would not be appropriate in our view to require detailed food safety studies as a pre-condition for the trials to take place. Such studies will be necessary if BASF decides in due course to seek authorisation to market the GM potatoes for food and feed use in the European Union.

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the greyhound industry on the welfare of retired racing greyhounds. [146635]

Jonathan Shaw: My ministerial predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw), met representatives of the industry on 7 November 2007. He informed hon. Members about the meeting on 6 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 614.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Jockey Club on the design of racecourses and the reduction of the incidence of injuries to racehorses. [146636]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no discussions between DEFRA Ministers and the Jockey Club on this matter.

Housing: Environment Protection

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* energy efficiency, *(b)* water efficiency and *(c)* carbon dioxide emissions of homes constructed to operate unconnected to mains electricity, gas and water supply. [146789]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have made no estimate of the average energy efficiency or carbon dioxide emissions from homes unconnected to mains electricity and gas supply. The requirements of part L of the Building Regulations, which set requirements for energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions, apply to all homes regardless of whether or not they are connected to mains energy supplies. Nevertheless, developers are reasonably free to determine how to meet the requirements of part L.

The Code for Sustainable Homes and the draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change are designed to cut carbon emissions from new homes and promote low and zero carbon homes in the period up until 2016, when the Government have proposed that all new homes will be zero carbon.

It is estimated that there are around 50,000 private water supplies serving about 0.6 per cent. of the population in England and Wales. No estimate has been made about the water efficiency of these dwellings, and they are not subject to the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999.

DEFRA and the Department for Communities and Local Government have jointly consulted on options for regulating for minimum standards of water efficiency in new homes and commercial buildings. If requirements were to be introduced through building regulations they would apply to all new houses irrespective of the type of water supply. The consultation closed on 9 March 2007, and we will publish responses in due course.

Inland Waterways: Pollution

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms the Environment Agency has in place to monitor levels of pollution in *(a)* the River Severn, *(b)* public waterways, *(c)* the sewerage system, *(d)* Brofiscin Quarry and *(e)* Maendy Quarry; and what records the agency keeps of the potential sources of pollution. [147899]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency routinely monitors 61 sites within the fresh and estuarine waters of the River Severn. The substances assessed and frequency of monitoring vary between monitoring points. In total the monitoring undertaken covers 134 different substances and parameters.

Many public waterways are included in the Environment Agency's routine monitoring programme. Where possible pollution incidents are identified, depending on severity these are followed up by more detailed investigations.

Water companies are responsible for monitoring the sewerage system. The Environment Agency monitors the quality of discharges from sewage works into the water environment to check compliance with consent requirements.

The Brofiscin and Maendy quarries are in Wales and are therefore a devolved matter.

The Environment Agency keeps a number of records of potential sources of pollution. These include records of consented discharges to surface and groundwaters; waste management licences and authorisations for industrial processes.

Livestock: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock, particularly cattle; and what studies he has commissioned or reviewed into ways of reducing their emissions. [146727]

Mr. Woolas: Agriculture as a whole contributes 7 per cent. of all UK greenhouse gas emissions and 14 per cent. globally. The sector accounts for 37 per cent. of methane and 67 per cent. of nitrous oxide emissions in the UK, but only 1 per cent. of carbon dioxide. About 86 per cent. of this methane comes from enteric fermentation in the digestive systems of animals (mainly cattle, sheep, pigs and horses) and 14 per cent. from animal waste. Methane emissions from agriculture have declined by 12 per cent. since 1990.

DEFRA has established research programmes to help build the evidence on reducing emissions from livestock through nutrition, husbandry, genetics, and nutrient management. We currently have two projects looking at both nutritional and genetic potential for

reducing methane and nitrogen emissions from livestock. The first will identify feed strategies in collaboration with industry to ensure knowledge transfer, and the second will identify areas where genetic research can add value. We are also taking a critical look at the configuration of the livestock sector and how this might need to change in order to meet emissions and other environmental targets.

Livestock: Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department holds on the incidence of MRSA in farm animals; and if he will make a statement. [146837]

Jonathan Shaw: MRSA has not been detected in farmed livestock in the UK and there is no current evidence that food-producing animals form a reservoir of infection in the UK. The organism has been isolated from dairy cows, pigs and chickens outside the UK and an ongoing assessment of the international picture is being maintained. The European Food Safety Authority is looking at the issue of MRSA in food-producing animals and considering what surveillance and other actions would be most appropriate for EU member states to undertake to address the issue. The UK is actively participating in the development of these proposals.

MRSA: Pigs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has commissioned research into the impact of MRSA on pigs following recent cases in the Netherlands. [146618]

Jonathan Shaw: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) has been isolated from dairy cows, pigs and chickens outside the UK and the international picture is being assessed on an ongoing basis. There is no current evidence that food-producing animals form a reservoir of infection in the UK and the organism has not been detected in farmed livestock in the UK. DEFRA has initiated a study undertaken by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency to test *S. aureus* isolates obtained from bovine clinical submissions for MRSA. This project commenced in autumn 2006 and, to date, more than 500 samples have been tested, with no MRSA identified.

The issue of MRSA in other livestock species was discussed at a meeting of the DEFRA Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination MRSA subgroup in January. The subgroup was set up to advise on how best the Department can contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the role of MRSA in animals.

Members felt that, at present, broadening the scope of work in this area should only be considered after analysis of the current findings relating to humans in the UK with MRSA infections. The particular, strain of MRSA (ST398) occurring in pigs in some other parts of Europe was not reported to have been detected so far in humans in the UK and this was a key consideration in reaching the decision taken. However, the position will be kept under active review, taking into account the latest findings in humans and animals, as well as developments in Europe and elsewhere.

The European Food Safety Authority is also looking at the issue of MRSA in food-producing animals and considering what surveillance and other actions would be most appropriate for EU member states to undertake to address the issue. The UK is actively participating in the development of these proposals.

National Income: EC Countries

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with EU counterparts on using a possible alternative to Gross Domestic Product for measuring economic welfare. [147180]

Jonathan Shaw: We are not aware that the former Secretary of State had any such discussions with his EU counterparts on this issue.

Organic Food: Pesticides

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which pesticides and herbicides are permitted for use on organic food crops in the UK. [147411]

Mr. Woolas: Organic production in the UK is regulated under the Compendium of UK Organic Standards.

No herbicides are permitted in organic farming.

The use of pesticides is restricted in organic production both in the number of products available and the uses to which they may be put. Organic farmers are encouraged to use management techniques such as rotation, use of appropriate species and protection of natural predators of specific pests. In some exceptional cases, it is recognised that further treatment is needed. In such cases, only those products listed in Annex IIB of the Compendium of UK Organic Standards can be used, subject to the conditions set out therein. I have arranged for copies of the Annex to be placed in the Libraries of the House. Any pesticide used by organic producers in the UK must also have approval from the Pesticides Safety Directorate.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to monitor the contamination of organic food by pesticides and herbicides that are permitted for use on such crops. [147412]

Mr. Woolas: In addition to the standard controls on pesticide and herbicide use, organic producers are subject to the control system outlined in the Compendium of UK Organic Standards.

These include control of the use of external inputs. The Standards are enforced in a number of ways:

(i) By the DEFRA and UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) approved organic inspection body that the farmer must be registered with. The farmer must be subject to at least an annual inspection by a DEFRA approved organic inspector from that body and may also be subject to further unannounced inspection visits. These inspections can (and when appropriate do) include sampling and testing. A positive result for either a non-allowed product, or an allowed product that was either incorrectly used or had not been approved for use as required, would result in the

imposition of sanctions ranging from decertification of the product to decertification of the farm dependant on the severity and cause of the case.

(ii) DEFRA organises sample surveillance inspections based on both random and risk based selection to ensure the inspection system is operated correctly by the approved organic inspection bodies.

(iii) The Pesticides Safety Directorate undertakes a residues surveillance programme that includes organic samples, and tests all samples for a wide range of pesticides including some of those allowed in organic production. Any unusual results are passed to the Organic Team in DEFRA who ensure the information is passed to the appropriate inspection body for further investigation.

(iv) Deliberate breaches of standards by organic operators are dealt with under The Organic Products Regulations 2004 (as amended), enforcement is undertaken by Trading Standards Officers.

It should be noted that no herbicides are permitted for use in organic farming, and discovery of their use would result in an automatic sanction.

Pollution: Water

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of algal bloom is in Liverpool Bay; what the locations are of algal bloom in UK waters, broken down by order of severity; if his Department will take steps to treat non-toxic algal bloom accumulated on the North Wales coast; and if he will make a statement. [146894]

Mr. Woolas: Levels of algal blooms are recorded continuously at one site in Liverpool Bay and less regularly elsewhere. Relatively high levels of algae occur in Liverpool Bay in spring and summer, in comparison to offshore regions or shallow regions not in the vicinity of major rivers. However, they do not cause a problem and are similar to other regions around the coast of England that are in the vicinity of major rivers. An exact comparison of levels is difficult due to differences in the frequency of measuring algal blooms. They also vary greatly from year to year.

Algal blooms eventually sink to the sea bed, and are consumed by predators or transported by tides and currents to other regions. Certain types of bloom-forming algae can, under certain conditions, be transported onto the shore and may result in visible scums along the shoreline. These present no health hazard to humans and pose a limited threat to organisms that live on the shore.

The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for water quality in and around Wales.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 1228W.

Research: Biotechnology

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what public funding her Department has made available in each of the last 10 years to *(a)* the Natural Environment Research Council and *(b)* other bodies for the purposes of conducting agricultural biotechnology research. [146078]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does not fund the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) directly. However, DEFRA does let contracts to NERC-sponsored research institutes. DEFRA research and development (R and D) contracts all research organisations for agricultural biotechnology work are summarised in the table attached.

For this purpose, DEFRA has defined biotechnology as being the application of biological organisms, systems and processes to manufacturing and service industries. This definition covers genetic modification research but goes much wider to include fused cell techniques, protein engineering, fermentation and cell culture techniques, the production of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies and many other techniques. It excludes pathogen characterisation and epidemiology.

Organisations in receipt of DEFRA R and D contracts related to agricultural biotechnology, 2000-01 to 2007-08[1]

£000

Contractor	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]
ADAS UK Ltd	0	424,025	424,521	262,610	42,089	0	51,802	77,356
Atkins Environment	0	0	14,981	59,856	24,892	0	0	0
BBSRC (via Central Office)	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,289	20,289
Botanical Developments Ltd	0	0	0	0	0	0	141,599	121,749
Bristol University	198,989	297,092	324,538	234,074	86,584	52,642	0	0
British Ornithologist's Union	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
Cambridge University	0	0	142,517	120,150	114,527	93,234	34,915	0
Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association	0	31,615	30,757	110,762	172,404	164,807	61,238	0
CEFAS	176,656	147,225	213,438	267,026	211,000	0	0	0

Organisations in receipt of DEFRA R and D contracts related to agricultural biotechnology, 2000-01 to 2007-08[1]

£000

Contractor	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[2]	2007-08[3]
Cellmark Diagnostics	0	[illegible]00	6,000	0	0	0	0	0
Central Science Laboratory	1,474,662	1,700,137	1,602,035	720,027	336,803	324,127	495,143	565,321
Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research	18,831	84,422	97,192	49,617	0	0	0	0
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	0	0	0	0	0	15,4498	0	0
De Montfort University	79,647	17,334	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dr David Garwes	0	0	0	0	10,000	60,000	55,000	15,000
East Anglia University	56,950	17,175	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Mailing Research	0	0	0	0	424,281	510,045	522,547	379,769
Forestry Research	88,712	137,100	63,226	72,433	70,423	67,254	92,895	94,725
Genesis Faraday Partnership	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46,935
Hannah Research Institute	11,913	48,280	49,631	36,019	0	0	0	0
Horticultural Development Council	0	5,833	4,167	0	0	0	0	0
Horticulture Research International	2,741,306	4,044,549	341,1758	2,741,843	721,350	589,819	479,473	389,774
Institute of Food Research	0	37,334	18,666	0	0	0	0	0
Institute for Animal Health	232,000	23,2000	20,2000	202,000	202,000	202,000	245,342	214,944
Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	1,291,058	1,495,788	1,698,867	1,894,959	1,821,540	1,857,802	1,927,701	547,870
Institute for Animal Health	232,000	232,000	202,000	202,000	202,000	202,000	245,342	214,944
Institute of Grassland and Environment Research	1,291,058	1,495,788	1,698,867	1,894,959	1,821,540	1,857,802	1,927,701	547,870
Institute of Zoology	37,121	79,989	48,169	0	0	0	0	0
International Food Information Service	36,000	33,825	6,150	0	0	0	0	0
John Innes Centre	1,232,186	1,290,963	881,815	310,017	370,379	423,700	192,464	70,998
Leatherhead Food International Ltd	0	0	83,372	130,192	50,457	0	0	0
Lewislive Ltd	0	0	0	60,105	0	0	0	0
LGC	0	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
Liverpool University	52,761	99,683	94,772	47,851	0	0	0	0
LMC International	0	0	0	72,944	0	0	0	0
Marine Laboratory - Aberdeen	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Organisations in receipt of DEFRA R and D contracts related to agricultural biotechnology, 2000-01 to 2007-08[1]

£000

Contractor	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[2]	2007-08[3]
Marks and Spencer plc	0	0	0	60,500	86,043	91,455	74,844	17,226
Ms Ella Livingstone	0	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0	0
National Institute of Agricultural Botany	167,190	242,546	219,493	168,485	212,597	66,760	21,930	0
Natural Environment Research Council (via Central Office)	1,010,068	1,215,512	1,702,084	553,648	220,533	208,706	78,458	13,683
New Game-Plan Ltd	0	0	0	0	10,431	0	0	0
Newcastle University	0	0	0	24,616	48,488	75,003	78,664	49,441
Plant Research International	0	0	0	0	224,085	222,516	257,470	247,682
Processors and Growers Research Organisation	0	0	0	0	40,071	258,503	329,012	351,348
Reading University	0	0	0	0	0	52,506	0	0
RHM Group Ltd	0	155,870	120,434	120,142	0	0	0	0
Roslin Institute	821,929	1,277,766	1,228,414	1,162,750	1,023,682	925,586	547,650	287,008
Rothamsted Research	787,870	100,4760	964,690	974,379	953,786	656,541	492,602	503,743
Royal Botanic Gardens	28,307	62,364	36,172	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Society of Chemistry	0	27,789	50,879	53,816	22,608	0	0	0
Scottish Agricultural College	49,202	101,736	89,758	19,839	50,935	116,058	332,068	365,486
Scottish Crop Research Institute	410,328	522,924	540,834	248,181	454,404	928,836	229,528	0
Silsoe Research Institute	0	81,413	271,738	183,544	108,194	0	0	0
Southampton University	106,747	47,752	88,106	392,638	468,371	510,119	534,918	529,703
Sutton Bonnington Campus - Nottingham University	0	29,343	72,803	43,461	0	0	0	0
The University of Manchester	50,971	26,083	0	90,000	4,550	0	0	0
UCNW (Bangor University)	0	56,395	65,104	5,577	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)	0	0	0	34,000	0	0	0	0
University of East Anglia	0	0	157,409	35,068	0	0	0	0
University of Edinburgh	0	0	0	0	0	58,440	110,723	105,942
University of Exeter	0	0	0	0	86,273	196,255	67,420	71,831
University of Leeds	32,401	67,310	71,792	0	36,882	0	0	0
University of Nottingham	243,787	557,657	99,7814	539,861	513,907	385,17	398,673	51,083

Organisations in receipt of DEFRA R and D contracts related to agricultural biotechnology, 2000-01 to 2007-08[1]

Contractor	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[1]*	*£000 2007-08[1]*
University of the West of England	0	0	50,762	97,221	135,104	124,143	0	0
University of Wales, Cardiff	31282	181242	209,130	159,324	42,701	0	0	0
University Wales, Aberystwth, Inst of Rural Studies	176,060	168,866	166,414	192,469	191,085	146,322	96,144	0
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	887,139	1,142,406	1,115,572	1,031,266	485,147	308,121	264,441	245,122
Warwick - HRI	0	267,728	1,251,429	2,398,167	3,148,562	2,781,402	1,829,811	1,133,281
York University	76,206	167,557	168,162	124,098	47,287	0	0	0
Total	12,628,289	17,656,868	18677563	16,115,535	13,274,455	12,612,917	10,065,764	6,520,109

[1]Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are provisional.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which research projects his Department has conducted on agricultural biotechnology in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost was of each. [146231]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* A list of DEFRA research and development (R and D) contracts related to agricultural biotechnology has been placed in the Library of the House. Project titles and costs are included for all relevant R and D projects from the formation of DEFRA to the current financial year.

For this purpose, DEFRA has defined biotechnology as being the application of biological organisms, systems and processes to manufacturing and service industries. This definition covers genetic modification research but goes much wider to include fused cell techniques, protein engineering, fermentation and cell culture techniques, the production of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies and many other techniques. It excludes pathogen characterisation and epidemiology.

Sewers: Water Companies

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date water companies will be obliged to adopt private sewers. [146470]

Mr. Woolas: The Government announced on 22 February that existing private sewers and lateral drains connected to public sewers in England should be transferred into the ownership of the nine statutory water and sewerage companies. The Government undertook to consult on a range of ways the transfer could be implemented and to examine how to prevent the proliferation of new private sewers. The consultation would also pose questions on the scope of assets to be included in the transfer.

The 12 week consultation on implementation options is planned to take place over the summer. Following this, regulations will be drafted, consulted on and amended accordingly. The timing of the process cannot be stated exactly, but the earliest date for regulations to be in force is likely to be summer 2008.

Water Supply

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of miles of English water pipes which need replacing; and how many miles of pipes will be replaced in 2007-08. [146295]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat, as the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales, sets price limits every five years. Ofwat's final determination in December 2004 set out the price limits and outputs for each company for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10.

Following the last price review in 2004, each company produced a monitoring plan covering the period up until 2010, containing estimates of the activity levels needed to achieve their outputs. The plans include the estimated length of mains renewal and relining that will be needed. The following table shows the monitoring plan estimates for companies in England for 2007-08 and overall for 2005-10.

	2005-10	*Miles 2007-08*
Mains renewal	7,100	1,600
Mains relining	3,600	750

Wood: Procurement

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of timber produced in England that is used for the manufacture of *(a)* paper, *(b)* chipboard and *(c)* other building materials. [148126]

Joan Ruddock: Not all the information requested is available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is estimated that, in 2005, 277,000 green tonnes of timber harvested in England was used directly by integrated pulp and paper mills out of the UK total use of 714,000 green tonnes of UK roundwood. Use by the

panel board industry, which includes chipboard, is only available as a UK total, which is 1.5 million green tonnes.

There are no statistics for wood's use as building materials, but in 2005 construction markets were reported to take 34 per cent. of all sawnwood from larger softwood sawmills in the UK (each producing more than 5,000 cubic metres of sawnwood). Within this UK total the larger softwood mills in England sold 23 per cent. for use in construction. Not all sawn timber produced in England came from logs harvested in England.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Vandalism

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce the practice of recording incidents of graffiti as a separate sub-category of criminal damage; and if she will make a statement. [147995]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* There are currently no plans to record incidents of graffiti as a sub-category of criminal damage.

Information on graffiti is not routinely recorded by all police forces as part of their information on criminal damage. There is also an absence of a precise legal definition of graffiti, which would result in inconsistencies in data that is held by forces.

Currently, the main sub-categories of recorded criminal damage are based on the type of property damaged. They are:

Damage to a dwelling;

Damage to a building other than a dwelling;

Damage to a vehicle;

Other damage;

These four are then sub-classified according to whether the offence is racially or religiously aggravated.

Arson (damage to property by fire, regardless of the type of property); and

Threats, or possession with intent, to commit criminal damage.

Police forces may have their own local methods for recording incidents of graffiti. Some local authorities have also made great efforts to make it easier for the public to report graffiti, so any attempt to estimate a total for graffiti would ideally include local authority data.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146933]

Mr. Byrne: The 2006-07 reporting year ended on 31 March 2007 and we are currently continuing to compile the report markings for staff below the grades of senior civil service. Of those reports compiled, the figures contained in the following table include the returns for unsatisfactory performing staff:

	Number/Percentage
Total reports processed	15,388
of which unsatisfactory	75
as percentage of processed reports	0.30

Genetics: Databases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual records were added to the national DNA database under section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, in each year since 2003. [146965]

Mr. McNulty: Section 10 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 amended the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to extend the power to take and retain DNA samples to all those arrested for a recordable offence. This legislation came into effect on 1 April 2004.

The number of profiles added to the National DNA Database for each year since 1 April 2004 under this power (including those who were later charged or convicted) is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	468,177
2005-06	607,940
2006-07	661,433

It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). Thus these profiles refer to the following estimated numbers of individuals:

	Number
2004-05	404,037
2005-06	524,652
2006-07	570,817

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many profiles were loaded onto the national DNA database in each quarter of each of the last five years. [147783]

Jacqui Smith: The number of profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) for each quarter of the last five years is set out in the following table. It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). Thus, the number of individuals on the database is approximately 13.7 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. Nonetheless, a long-term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of all such redundant replicate profiles.

Number of profiles added

	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
2002-03	127,915	125,899	113,383	121,322
2003-04	110,049	120,337	106,326	138,585
2004-05	112,209	124,276	145,672	138,961
2005-06	156,685	169,133	184,936	204,391
2006-07	175,598	209,495	171,807	165,564
2007-08	154,496	—	—	—

Police: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to make changes to the system of police pay. [147911]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Effective and affordable pay arrangements are essential for a modern police service. I announced to the House last November a review of police pay arrangements. We are working with ACPO, the APA and the staff associations and trade unions in the police to progress this.

Stop and Search

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton, of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, on stop and search, what data are held on the offences for which people were arrested. [147768]

Jacqui Smith: The section 44 Terrorism Act 2000 Stop and Search aggregated collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, records resultant arrests either in connection with terrorism or for other reasons. The specific offences for which persons are arrested are not recorded.

Stop and Search: Forms

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations or guidance there is on the design of forms issued by police forces to people who are stopped and searched under counter-terror legislation. [147765]

Jacqui Smith: Comprehensive guidance on all aspects of stop and search, including the use and importance of forms, was published by CENTREX in July last year. This guidance can be found at

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/Stoppercent20&percent20Searchpercent20Interactive_29.06.06.pdf

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Theft: Bicycles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stolen bicycles were recovered by each police authority in each of the last five years. [148642]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. There is no requirement for police forces to notify the Home Office of the number of stolen bicycles that are recovered.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146994]

Mrs. McGuire: The answer is in the following table.

Performance bonus payments are awarded to employees on the basis of their individual performance. They are paid after the completion of the performance year. The expenditure incurred is as follows:

Table 1: Amount paid in performance bonuses to DWP staff since 2002 and the numbers of staff receiving bonuses

Financial year	Total paid (£ million)	Number of employees receiving bonus
2004-05	38.61	129,855
2005-06	42.82	123,285
2006-07	40.68	116,096

In addition to individual performance bonus payments, DWP also paid team bonuses to selected units within the Department. The expenditure incurred is as follows:

Table 2: Amount paid in team bonuses to DWP staff since 2002 and the numbers of staff receiving bonuses

	Total paid (£ million)	Total number receiving bonus
2004-05	3.3	11,250
2005-06	Not applicable	Not applicable
2006-07	Not applicable	Not applicable

Notes:

1. The information in Table 1 is based on the numbers of staff recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are a headcount.
2. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March.
3. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in any given year, which is why the information has been presented separately, and not as an aggregated total.
4. The numbers of employees receiving a team bonus are approximations. No team bonus schemes have run since 2004-05.
5. The answer to PQ/06/101034 in November 2006 provided details of bonuses paid from 2002-03 to 2006-07. Information on bonuses paid in the 2007-08 financial year is not yet available. DWP are still in pay negotiations with trade unions, and payment of the senior civil service bonus has been postponed until November 2007.

Individuals may also be entitled to special bonus payments. The cost in a typical year for these bonuses is around £3 million with payments made to approximately 17,000 individuals (based on 2005-06 payments).

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146929]

Mrs. McGuire: Departmental performance figures for our employees are currently being collated for the

2006-07 Performance year. In line with previous years' publication dates, these are due to be published in September.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147042]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is shown in the following table.

DWP employee's sick leave periods of less than five calendar days in the 12 months ended 31 March 2007

Number of periods	*Number of staff*
2	18,866
3	9,554
4	4,430
5 or more	5,045
Total	37,895

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1748W, on Smith Institute: finance, what details his Department holds on this training course; what use has been made of this think tank for training departmental staff; and if he will make a statement. [147096]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Translation Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount his Department has spent *(a)* on translating documents and *(b)* translating websites into other languages. [148261]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department and its businesses produce translated materials where relevant and according to the needs of each target audience. In 2006-07, the Department centrally spent around £267,500 on translation services related to communications. Details of other translation costs are not held centrally and can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Low Incomes: Agriculture

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of farmers in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* the UK who are living below the poverty line. [147427]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

New Deal Schemes: Expenditure

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the New Deal programme in each year since 1998. [147113]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 32W.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicant pension schemes' qualification status for the Financial Assistance Scheme are undecided; and if he will make a statement. [148290]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 29 June 2007 the Financial Assistance Scheme has received formal applications from 894 pension schemes of which 27 remain undecided.

Social Security Benefits: Epilepsy

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people registered for disability benefit on the grounds of having epilepsy in each of the last five years. [148257]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) claimants whose main disabling condition is epilepsy (quarter ending)

	DLA	*AA*
As at November:		
2002	52,620	4,980
2003	54,730	4,880
2004	56,570	4,760
2005	57,770	4,600
2006	60,070	4,490

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Totals include those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Where the claimant is eligible for both care and mobility components of DLA, the disabling condition associated with the mobility component is shown here. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS.

SCOTLAND

First Minister

7. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what arrangements are in place for liaison with the First Minister; and if he will make a statement. [147629]

Des Browne: There is regular contact between UK Ministers and counterparts in the Scottish Executive on a range of policy matters. I met the First Minister

on 30 June and plan to do so again soon. I look forward to working constructively with him on the wide range of matters of importance to Scotland.

Defence Bases

8. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence on the future of defence bases in Scotland. [147630]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with colleagues in the Ministry of Defence on a range of subjects.

Business Environment

9. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government are taking to ensure a long-term stable environment for Scottish business. [147632]

David Cairns: Through this Government's economic policies, solid macro-economic foundations have been established ensuring long-term stability for Scotland's businesses. Stable inflation, low interest rates and contained borrowing have maintained the necessary conditions for the sustained economic growth that the United Kingdom enjoys.

Minimum Wage

10. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on monitoring of the payment of the minimum wage in Scotland. [147633]

David Cairns: There is a service level agreement between HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Officials meet on a regular basis to review performance.

Medical Research Council

11. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on funding in Scotland by the Medical Research Council. [147634]

David Cairns: The Medical Research Council (MRC) funds medical research throughout the UK. The MRC spent £44.2 million in Scotland during 2005-06, which amounts to approximately 11 per cent. of its total research spend.

Post Offices

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the future of post offices in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [147622]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend on a range of issues.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Convictions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of cases brought for prosecution by the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland resulted in convictions in each of the last three years. [147130]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Defendants dealt with in the magistrates courts in Northern Ireland: percentage conviction rates 2004-05 to 2006-07 (number and percentage)[1,2]

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Convicted (on at least one count)	7,322	10,600	16,482
Acquitted (all counts)	1,194	1,733	2,781
Total	8,516	12,333	19,263
Percentage conviction rate	86.0	85.9	85.6

[1] Figures refer to prosecutions conducted by the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions/Public Prosecution Service only. The increase in caseload over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 may be attributed to the implementation of the Public Prosecution Service, commencing with a Pilot Project in South Belfast Police District (from 1 December 2003).

[2] It should be noted that the calculation of the percentage conviction rate has been amended to bring the service into line with the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales. The main change is focused on the category 'acquitted' which now includes defendants in respect of whom all charges were withdrawn prior to commencement of trial. The conviction rate figures quoted above therefore differ from those quoted previously in the 2005-06 PPS annual report.

Defendants dealt with in the Crown court in Northern Ireland: percentage conviction rates 2004-05 to 2006-07 (number and percentage)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Convicted (on at least one count)	1,409	1,333	1,434
Acquitted (all counts)[1]	221	207	215
Total	1,630	1,540	1,649
Percentage conviction rate	86.4	86.6	87.0

[1] Includes the following outcome categories: 'Crown offered no evidence', 'Prosecution stayed' and 'Not to be proceeded with'.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148018]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not have any Private Finance Initiative projects.

The NIO has an off-balance sheet commitment under Public Private Partnership (PPP) which is the Causeway project. The Causeway project is a partnership between Fujitsu Services and the NIO. The PPP contract was let with Fujitsu in August 2003 to deliver a managed service related to the electronic

sharing of information across the criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland over a 10 year period. The total cost of the contract is £27 million.

Paedophilia

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to protect young children from sex offenders in Northern Ireland. [148066]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI recognise the very real and genuine concerns regarding the protection of young children from sex offenders. Specific measures include the 'Multi-agency Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Risk Management' process, which involves PSNI, Northern Ireland Probation Service, Northern Ireland Prison Service, Health and Social Services, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and representatives from the voluntary sector. The primary purpose of the agencies' work is to help protect the public from harm by reducing the opportunities available for offenders to gain access to victims, and also to reduce their propensity to offend at all.

Effective collaboration is also incorporated into the day-to-day work of police officers and social workers, to ensure that the welfare of children remains paramount. These measures are enshrined in the 'Protocol for Joint Investigation by Social Workers and Police Officers' and in the Area Child Protection Policy and Procedures documents.

Police are also actively involved in various other campaigns around this issue, for example, 'Stop-it-Now'—a campaign which encourages early recognition and responses to the problem, and 'Leisurewatch' (currently piloting in three areas) whereby leisure staff are trained to be observant and aware of ways to minimise the risks from sex offenders.

The PSNI are making active and ongoing efforts to protect children throughout Northern Ireland from sex offenders both on a strategic and on a practical level.

Police: Early Retirement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers have retired on medical grounds in the last 12 months. [148438]

Paul Goggins: In the last 12 months, up to 30 June 2007, 42 officers were retired on medical grounds.

Prisons: Manpower

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to *(a)* maintain and *(b)* increase staffing levels in prisons in Northern Ireland. [148064]

Paul Goggins: The overall staffing position of the Northern Ireland Prison Service is kept under regular review. The target staffing level baseline for uniform staff was reviewed and adjusted from 1 April 2007 to take account of existing and projected staffing needs in light of an increasing prisoner population. In addition, the service has reviewed the grades and skills needed to reflect greater emphasis on prisoner engagement, education and rehabilitation work. New types of operational and support staff have been introduced over the past two years and approximately 200 such staff have been recruited. The service is continuing to recruit new grades of staff.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in 2005-06. [148240]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is shown in the table.

Table 1: Number of childcare places that have opened and closed in 2005-06, England

	Number
Opened	214,800
Childminders	48,800
Full day care	90,900
Out of school	75,200
Closed	144,600
Childminders	44,800
Full day care	48,700
Out of school	51,100
Net steady state changes[1]	+8,900
Childminders	+2,100
Full day care	+5,600
Out of school	+1,200
Net change	+79,100

[1] The net steady state refers to registered providers whose registration status has not changed, but whose number of places has fluctuated over the period in question.

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

Source: Ofsted

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered childcare providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest published figures are available on their website

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage diversity of provision in childcare. [148241]

Beverley Hughes: The Government believe that the best child care market is a diverse one which offers parents real choice about the type of child care they can access. Accordingly, the Childcare Act 2006 builds on our 10-year child care strategy to help maintain and strengthen the great diversity that already exists.

The Act requires local authorities to complete, by April 2008, an assessment of the sufficiency of child care in their area, including the extent to which parents' requirements for different types of provision are being satisfied, It then requires local authorities to secure the provision of sufficient child care to meet the

requirements of working parents, with particular attention to the needs of those with low incomes or disabled children.

From October this year, the Act will place a restriction on local authorities providing child care where there are alternative and appropriate means of delivery available in the market. Before providing new child care themselves, local authorities will have to determine whether another provider is willing to provide it and whether it is appropriate, in all the circumstances, for the authority to provide the child care itself.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on provision of Care to Learn support for teenage mothers who commence a course over the age of 19 years. [148523]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Department and the Learning and Skills Council have received representations from various bodies to further extend Care to Learn support to young adult parents who want to go into learning and have difficulty accessing child care. We extended Care to Learn to 19-year-olds in August 2006 and teenage parents receiving Care to Learn support can carry on receiving help past their 20th birthday while they continue on their course.

As I announced on 28 July, I am making available an additional £75 million, over the next three years, to support 50,000 workless families with child care to help them access training and move into work.

Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the effect of Sure Start children's centres in areas where there is existing sufficient nursery provision provided by the private, voluntary and independent sector. [148265]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start children's centres serving communities in the most disadvantaged areas must include, as part of their offer to parents, integrated full day care and early learning places for children under five. In many cases, this will build on existing provision, like Sure Start Local programmes or Neighbourhood Nurseries. 58 per cent. of children's centres have child care provided by the private, voluntary or independent sectors. In less disadvantaged areas, if existing provision is meeting parents' needs centres will simply provide parents with advice and information about local child care options.

In planning their children's centres, local authorities must consult with existing private, voluntary and independent child care providers to determine the best way of ensuring parents have access to sufficient, good quality provision. In addition, from October this year, the Childcare Act 2008 will place a restriction on local authorities providing child care where there are alternative and appropriate means of delivery available in the market.

The assessments of child care sufficiency that local authorities are required to complete by April 2008 can be expected to give a clear indication of how child care provided by Sure Start children's centres fits with other child care in their areas. Local authorities will be expected to act in accordance with their assessments when fulfilling the duty to secure, from April 2008, sufficient child care for working parents.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Stockton South

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in Stockton, South claimed education maintenance allowance in each year since it was introduced, broken down by ward of residence. [147290]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DCSF and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 5 July 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many students in Stockton South claimed education maintenance allowance in each year since it was introduced; broken down by ward of residence."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at Ward level EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Stockton-on-Tees Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004/05	945
2005/06	1,768
2006/07	[1]2,359

[1] To end of May.

EMA Take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06 and to date in 2006/07 are now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

I hope you find this information useful.

Nursery Schools: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* safeguards are in place and *(b)* checks are made to ensure that local authorities are sufficiently funding the free entitlement to early years education for three and four year olds. [148266]

Beverley Hughes: The code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds is statutory guidance to which local authorities must have regard, when planning and managing the delivery of the free entitlement. The code requires local authorities to ensure settings are funded equitably, transparently and fairly, according to local need and market dynamics. My letter in December 2006, to all local authority chief executives asked them to reassure themselves that their funding levels support

a diverse local childcare market and take into account provider sustainability. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that funding is allocated and spent appropriately.

Last month, we announced a series of changes to how local authorities fund the free entitlement to early learning and care for three and four-year-olds, designed to ensure that local funding allocations are transparent and consistent across the sectors, and give providers stability to plan for the future and improve quality.

Availability of free early years education is within the scope of Ofsted's annual performance assessments of local authority children's services.

Pre-school Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what exemptions there are for *(a)* Waldorf and Steiner kindergartens and *(b)* Montessori pre-schools from the proposed new guidelines for working with pre-school children; and what consultations his Department has held on (i) these exemptions and (ii) whether the guidelines are legally enforceable. [147946]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Currently all Waldorf Steiner kindergartens and Montessori pre-schools offering the free entitlement to 3 and 4-year-olds must comply with the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage. No exemptions have been sought, or granted, from the Foundation Stage.

From September 2008 the Foundation Stage will be superseded by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which will be a statutory requirement for all early years providers and will be legally enforceable. The Government carried out a formal public consultation between 1 March and 24 May 2007 on the circumstances under which exemptions to the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements might be granted and the process for such exemptions. I am considering the responses to the consultation exercise and the representations made by Waldorf Steiner and Montessori and expect to publish the Government's response to the consultation this month and regulations will follow in the autumn. The Early Years Foundation Stage is a very flexible set of requirements which is designed to be inclusive and compatible with the vast majority of educational philosophies.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authorities are entitled legally to ask to inspect the financial accounts of private, voluntary and independent sector nurseries, pre-schools and day care providers relating to activities that are not directly funded by public money for free early years education places for three and four-year-olds. [148456]

Beverley Hughes: The code of practice on the delivery of nursery education places for 3 and 4-year-olds is statutory guidance to which local authorities must have regard when planning and managing the delivery of the free entitlement. The code states that local authorities should put in place appropriate accounting and auditing procedures to ensure that funding paid in respect of free places is administered properly. Local authorities do so, in consultation with providers, through delegated local conditions of funding, which may in some cases require settings to provide access to accounts relating to administration of public funding. Local authorities may also ask providers for sight of their accounts in order to assess their financial viability before contracting with or providing funding to the setting. However, settings are under no obligation to comply with requests for inspection of accounts related to activity not undertaken in respect of public funding.

Pre-school Education: Southern Region

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate his Department has made of the cost per capita to nurseries, pre-schools and daycare providers in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* south east England of delivering the free 2.5 hour early years session for three and four year olds; [148454]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the level of funding per capita for the free 2.5 hour early years session for three and four year olds that is being passed onto *(a)* private, voluntary and independent sector nurseries, pre-schools and daycare providers and *(b)* maintained sector nurseries, pre-schools and daycare providers by each local education authority in south east England. [148455]

Beverley Hughes: The free entitlement is delivered by a very diverse range of providers in the maintained, private, and voluntary and independent sectors, which would make it impossible to identify a single unit cost for delivery of nursery education and care.

Because of this diversity, local authorities—in consultation with their school forums—are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances. The code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds requires local authorities to ensure settings are funded equitably, transparently and fairly, reflecting local need.

At national level, estimated expenditure on under 5s by local authorities in 2005-06, the latest year for which outturn data is available, is £3,473 million The Department is currently working with authorities to produce estimates of the level of funding allocated to early years in each local authority and its distribution between the PVI and maintained sectors in 2005-06 and 2006-07. We intend to collate and publish these estimates in August so that authorities can benchmark their approaches to funding the free entitlement. This is part of a wider package of reforms of the early years funding system announced on 25 June 2007 and available at

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolfunding2008to11

School Meals: Take-Up

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer

of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 372-3W, on school meals: take-up, whether the 4 per cent. target relates exclusively to lunches. [147930]

Kevin Brennan: The strategy to increase demand by at least 4 percentage points by March 2008 relates exclusively to school lunches.

Schools: Hyperactivity

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure schools adhere to regulations on the use of social, behavioural and psychological interventions in conjunction with the prescription of Ritalin to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; [147678]

(2) what training and support is provided to teachers and school staff to help them provide for students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [147679]

Kevin Brennan: Local authorities, schools, early education settings and those who help them—including health and social services—must have regard to the special educational needs (SEN) code of practice (2001), These bodies must fulfil their statutory duties towards children with SEN in the light of the guidance in the code of practice.

Although there are no regulations on interventions, 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' DfES/DH (2005) is designed to help all schools and all early years settings and their employers develop policies on managing medicines, and to put in place effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs. It provides specific advice on the supply, possession and administration for controlled drugs such as methylphenidate (commercial name Ritalin). Where a child has an ongoing health need, including medicines, schools are advised to produce an individual health care plan for a child with medical needs that identifies the level of support that is needed.

The SEN code and 'Managing Medicines' guidance make clear that education staff should work closely with, and take advice from health professionals to form the whole 'package' of support required for children taking medicines as a means of managing a special educational need or disability.

In order to be awarded qualified teacher status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they understand their responsibilities under the code, know how to seek advice from specialists on less common types of SEN, can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEN, and can identify and support pupils who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

We are proposing that from September 2007 the standards for qualified teacher status will be strengthened to require teachers to know and comply with current legislation on the well-being of children and young people, to know and understand the role of others when dealing with children who have SEN or disabilities, and to communicate effectively with parents and carers.

The current induction standards require newly qualified teachers to demonstrate that they can plan effectively to meet the needs of pupils in their classes with SEN, with or without a statement. The standards also demand that they work collaboratively with both other teachers and specialists to ensure that provision is suitable for SEN pupils. The revised standards framework will reinforce, build on and strengthen the current standards surrounding SEN.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN ranging from awareness-raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers, other staff and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

We are also launching later this year an inclusion development programme (IDP) which will deliver continuing professional development for teachers and other staff, in key areas of SEN. The opening round will focus on children with speech, language and communication needs and dyslexia as the ability to communicate is fundamental to learning and progression. The IDP will subsequently address behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, including children with ADHD.

Sure Start Programme: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Sure Start outreach programmes. [148051]

Beverley Hughes: There is a comprehensive national level evaluation of Sure Start local programmes (SSLPs) in place, which began in January 2001 and will run until 2008. Outreach is part of the core work SSLPs are expected to deliver, and is a theme that runs through much of the evaluation. In particular, the study "Outreach and Home Visiting in Sure Start Local Programmes[1]" (November 2006) provides extensive information evaluating how far outreach and home visiting are contributing to the aim of Sure Start.

[1] Outreach and Home Visiting in Sure Start Local Programmes, November 2006. NESS Report 17; DfES HMSO. Ball, M. and Niven, L. (2006)

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to promote fair access to higher education. [148187]

Bill Rammell: Widening participation in higher education is both an economic and social necessity. Everyone who has the potential and qualifications to succeed in higher education, whatever their family background, should have the opportunity to participate. That is why my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced on 5 July a further package of improvements to the financial support available in England to students from hard working families on modest incomes; so that no one from such backgrounds

is held back from realising their potential by concerns about the affordability of university study. Alongside those arrangements, we have the Aimhigher programme, raising aspiration and attainment levels amongst those currently under-represented in higher education; the Office for Fair Access, ensuring that institutions charging variable tuition fees for their courses safeguard and promote fair access through bursaries and other financial and outreach work; and the work of the higher education sector to reform the current university application system so that it is more transparent, efficient and fairer.

Higher Education: Business

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to encourage closer working between business and universities. [148465]

Bill Rammell: Many higher education institutions (HEIs) are already highly successful in engaging both public and private sector employers. However, if we are to realise the stretching ambition set for us by Lord Leitch, and transform the UK into a truly world-class skills economy by 2020, then we will need to scale up the number of working adults who are engaged in higher-level learning, and this in turn will necessitate even greater engagement between employers and HEIs. A growing list of universities have expressed an intention to make their core mission "business facing"; several of these have already received grants from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to take forward employer engagement projects which will help to build capacity and develop best practice.

The grant letter sent to HEFCE by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in January 2007 set out an expectation for 5,000 additional student places in demand-led, employer co-funded provision in the academic year 2008-09, and asked HEFCE to develop a growth strategy to deliver at least an additional 5,000 entrants year-on-year over the comprehensive spending review period. HEFCE have invited HEIs and Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) to develop joint proposals to respond to its allocation of the 5,000 additional co-funded places.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department is responsible for Aimhigher and other Widening Participation activities in schools; and how he plans to ensure that schools and universities continue to work together to improve access to higher education. [148275]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for widening participation in higher education, including the Aimhigher programme. The Aimhigher programme, in particular, brings together universities, colleges and schools in partnership to raise the attainment levels of young people and their aspirations towards higher education. Higher education institutions themselves will also often have well developed programmes of activities to raise the aspirations of pupils in schools and colleges which are built on strong local partnerships. These links are already well established and I will continue to work closely with my colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families to ensure they are maintained and strengthened.

Improving the attainment and outcomes at all stages of education for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly low socio-economic groups, is a shared Government objective. As part of our strategy to widen participation my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced on 5 July a further package of improvements to the financial support available in England to students from hard working families on modest incomes; so that no one from such backgrounds is held back from realising their potential by concerns about the affordability of university study. This package includes an expansion of the popular and successful Student Associate Scheme involving high achieving HE students helping out as mentors and assistants in school classrooms where, as role models, they can inspire young people to achieve and progress into higher education. Our two Departments will continue to work together on this and a range of other programmes.

Learning Disability: Prisoners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of prisoners had *(a)* learning disabilities and *(b)* dyslexia over the last 10 years. [148114]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The information requested is not available centrally. The 'No One Knows' research report recently published by the Prison Reform Trust, suggests that between 20-30 per cent. of offenders have learning difficulties or learning disabilities.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Electricity: Meters

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what factors underlay the decision to set a 10 year time frame for the roll out of smart meters. [148222]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Energy White Paper, the Government made clear their expectation that smart meters would be rolled out within 10 years. The industry has confirmed that this broad timeframe is achievable, but we will test this as we develop our policy over the coming months.

Energy Supply: Solar Power

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much electricity installed photovoltaic generation has contributed to the UK electricity supply through the national grid in each of the last five years. [148429]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest available data are as follows:

GWh

	Generation from photovoltaic sources transferred to the public distribution system	Total electricity supplied
2001	1.5	371,187
2002	2.2	368,979
2003	2.4	374,469
2004	3.6	373,401
2005	7.5	379,485

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2006.

The proportion of total photovoltaic energy generation supplied to the grid is estimated. The proportion of UK electricity supplied accounted for by photovoltaics is in each year less than 0.01 per cent.

EU External Trade: Agriculture

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what concessions on agricultural subsidies were offered by the European Union at discussions with the United States, Brazil and India in Potsdam. [146854]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The 19-21 June meeting of the G4 Ministers (US, EU, India and Brazil) failed to reach convergence on the Doha Development Agenda. This means that the focus now returns to Geneva and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as a whole. We can expect WTO Chairs' texts to come forward very soon and the WTO Director General, Lamy, to lead the process.

At the beginning of April 2007, the G6 (India, Brazil, US, EU, Japan and Australia) all committed to conclude negotiations by the end of the year. The Government remain committed to achieving an ambitious outcome this year. We believe that this remains possible providing all parties show the necessary flexibility and commitment.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the increase has been in the overall committed spend figure under the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings programme since its relaunch on 29 May; and what assessment he has made of the likely spend by summer 2008. [148560]

Malcolm Wicks: When the Chancellor announced in the Budget 2007 that an additional £6 million would be made available for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme household stream, we took the opportunity to suspend this funding stream, as it provided us with the opportunity to consult widely over how to use the remaining funds through to scheme closure.

By the time we suspended the household stream on 21 March 2007, we had committed £6,456,091 to 3,988 household projects. Since re-launching the scheme on 29 May 2007, we have to date committed a further £624,316 to 629 household projects, with a much more even spread of funds committed across the technologies.

With the increased flexibility that the removal of the monthly cap provides, we cannot predict future spend with any certainty. However, we will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments going forward.

National Grid: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the carbon content is of grid electricity; and what targets the Government are setting to reduce that carbon content. [148653]

Malcolm Wicks: According to table 5C published in the current "Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics" (paragraph 5.45, http://www.dtistats.net/energystats/dukes06_c5.pdf), UK power stations emitted 124 tonnes of carbon per gigawatt hour (GWh) of electricity supplied during 2005 on average.

The Government do not target the carbon content of UK electricity generation at present.

Nuclear Power Stations: Design

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which vendors of nuclear reactor designs had submitted letters to the regulator's joint programme office by 30 June nominating the designs for which they intend to seek generic design assessment in the UK. [148699]

Malcolm Wicks: The closing date for applications for generic design assessment of nuclear reactor designs to reach the regulator's joint programme office was 22 June 2007.

We received four applications by this date. These were from: AECL, AREVA, GE-Hitachi and Toshiba-Westinghouse. A press notice was issued on 5 July 2007 accordingly.

All applications and supporting letters of endorsement will be published on the Department's website in due course.

Power Stations: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the future use of Buildwas power station. [147675]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received no representations on the future of Buildwas (Ironbridge) power station.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average hourly pay was for each *(a)* quartile, *(b)* decile and *(c)* duo-decile in each year since 1992. [148767]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what average hourly pay was for each (a) quartile, (b) decile and (c) duo-decile in each year since 1992. (148767)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and from the New Earnings Survey (NES), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach tables showing, where available, the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th, 80th, 85th, 90th and 95th percentile of Gross Hourly Pay, corresponding to each quartile, decile, and duo-decile. It is not possible to obtain deciles and duo-deciles from the New Earnings Survey results, other than the published 10th and 90th deciles. Therefore only these deciles, and the published quartiles, are available prior to 1997.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It replaced NES from 2004, although ASHE methodology has been applied to NES datasets to provide continuous results from 1997 onwards. Both surveys feature a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross hourly earnings for all full-time employee[1] jobs

£

	5th percentile	10th percentile	15th percentile	20th percentile	25th percentile	30th percentile
1992	—	3.80	—	—	4.80	—
1993	—	3.91	—	—	4.97	—
1994	—	4.02	—	—	5.09	—
1995	—	4.04	—	—	5.19	—
1996	—	4.20	—	—	5.39	—
1997[2]	3.78	4.37	4.84	5.26	5.68	6.07
1998	3.98	4.56	5.03	5.49	5.92	6.34
1999	4.18	4.79	5.27	5.74	6.17	6.61
2000	4.38	4.99	5.49	5.97	6.40	6.84
2001	4.58	5.20	5.72	6.21	6.67	7.15
2002	4.81	5.44	5.99	6.47	6.97	7.45
2003	5.02	5.68	6.22	6.74	7.23	7.73
2004 excl.	5.23	5.91	6.49	7.02	7.54	8.07
2004 inc.[3]	5.19	5.84	6.40	6.94	7.45	7.98
2005	5.35	6.00	6.60	7.15	7.68	8.21
2006	5.55	6.24	6.84	7.41	7.95	8.52

£

	35th percentile	40th percentile	45th percentile	55th percentile	60th percentile	65th percentile
1992	—	—	—	—	—	—
1993	—	—	—	—	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	—	—
1995	—	—	—	—	—	—
1996	—	—	—	—	—	—
1997[2]	6.49	6.93	7.41	8.49	9.10	9.78
1998	6.77	7.21	7.71	8.84	9.51	10.24
1999	7.05	7.52	8.04	9.20	9.87	10.66
2000	7.30	7.78	8.32	9.55	10.25	11.07
2001	7.64	8.14	8.70	10.00	10.76	11.60
2002	7.96	8.50	9.08	10.45	11.24	12.16
2003	8.25	8.78	9.40	10.81	11.65	12.58

£

	35th percentile	40th percentile	45th percentile	55th percentile	60th percentile	65th percentile
2004 excl.	8.62	9.21	9.87	11.35	12.19	13.13
2004 inc.[3]	8.53	9.10	9.74	11.22	12.04	12.97
2005	8.78	9.38	10.04	11.58	12.45	13.45
2006	9.11	9.74	10.44	12.02	12.94	13.99

£

	70th percentile	75th percentile	80th percentile	85th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile
1992	—	9.09	—	—	12.94	—
1993	—	9.55	—	—	13.44	—
1994	—	9.76	—	—	13.76	—
1995	—	10.17	—	—	14.4	—
1996	—	10.61	—	—	15.11	—
1997[2]	10.58	11.52	12.60	14.07	16.09	19.88
1998	11.07	12.04	13.18	14.69	16.90	21.10
1999	11.52	12.55	13.78	15.36	17.75	22.15
2000	11.99	13.04	14.27	15.91	18.37	23.20
2001	12.60	13.73	15.05	16.81	19.60	25.23
2002	13.18	14.36	15.75	17.65	20.60	26.60
2003	13.62	14.82	16.31	18.26	21.27	27.37
2004 excl.	14.22	15.41	16.96	18.99	22.18	28.44
2004 inc.[3]	14.07	15.32	16.79	18.77	21.83	27.84
2005	14.58	15.91	17.50	19.57	22.86	29.08
2006	15.18	16.56	18.16	20.34	23.71	30.31

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] Figures from 1992 to 1996 are taken from the New Earnings Survey, and are for GB only. Figures from 1997 to 2006 are from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and are for the UK.
[3] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
Source:
New Earnings Survey; Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median hourly pay was in each year since 1992. [148768]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median hourly pay was in each year since 1992. (148768)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and from the New Earnings Survey (NES), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach a table showing the mean and median Gross Hourly Pay for all full-time employees, for the years 1992-2006.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It replaced NES from 2004, although ASHE methodology has been applied to NES datasets to provide continuous results from 1997 onwards. Both surveys feature a one per cent. sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross hourly earnings for all employee[1] a jobs

	Mean	Median
1992	7.50	6.44
1993	7.84	6.70
1994	8.03	6.85
1995	8.31	7.08
1996	8.71	7.37
1997[2]	9.31	7.92
1998	9.82	8.26
1999	10.26	8.60
2000	10.71	8.91
2001	11.33	9.32
2002	11.93	9.74
2003	12.32	10.07
2004 (excl)	12.80	10.56
2004 (inc[3])	12.60	10.44
2005	13.11	10.77
2006	13.62	11.21

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] Figures from 1992 to 1996 are taken from the new earnings survey, and are for GB only. Figures from 1997 to 2006 are from the annual survey of hours and earnings and are for the UK.
[3] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the annual survey of hours and earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
Source:
New Earnings Survey; Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Breast Cancer

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in England have been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. [148771]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many people in England have been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. (148771)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004. They are published in the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics:- Registrations (Series MB1) available on the NS website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

The data item, stage, was introduced in 1993 when the cancer registration minimum data set was established by the Department of Health. There remains much variation between the recording of stage that it is likely to reflect differences in what is meant by "stage" by the cancer registries, rather than real differences across England in what clinicians use to classify the patients. It is not therefore, possible to provide England data on cancer incidence broken down by stage.

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's project evaluation report produced for the council tax revaluation in Wales. [143663]

Jane Kennedy: Arrangements have been made to place copies of the Valuation Office Agency's Post Evaluation Review of the Wales Council Tax Revaluation 2005 in the Library.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1495W, to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on departmental expenditure, what discussions his Department had with Brian Pomeroy before commissioning Opinion Leader Research. [147927]

Kitty Ussher: Mr. Pomeroy and Treasury Ministers discussed the review of Christmas saving schemes and agreed terms of reference. Mr. Pomeroy recommended to the Treasury that qualitative research be conducted to inform consideration of these questions. The Treasury awarded the contract for this work following an appropriate competitive exercise, in line with Government procurement rules.

Fireworks

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the revenue received by Her Majesty's Treasury from the importation, manufacture and sale of fireworks in each of the last three years. [146795]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 2 July 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT or direct taxes related to the manufacture or sale of individual goods and services.

The total revenue received by Her Majesty's Treasury from the importation of fireworks in each of the last three years was as follows:

	£
2004	3,766,584.41
2005	4,153,984.30
2006	3,857,197.20

Landfill Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue collected under the landfill tax was *(a)* allocated and *(b)* disbursed to (i) the Waste and Resources Action Programme and (ii) other programmes designed to increase recycling in each of the last 10 years for which records exist. [147128]

Angela Eagle: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) obtains Government funding under both the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW) and DEFRA's Waste Implementation Programme (WIP).

WIP received funding when the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, funded from Landfill Tax receipts, was reformed in 2003. Of this, £16 million in 2003-04, £35 million in 2004-05 and £50 million in 2005-06 was spent on WRAP.

Landfill Tax receipts also fund BREW, which is being used to return £284 million to business over the current spending review period (2005-08). BREW is providing an additional £23 million to WRAP over this period.

Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 940-41W, on lone parents, if he will estimate the average tax credit payment being made to single parents entitled to working tax credit, including the child care element, and child tax credit. [146283]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* Information on the number of single parent families benefiting from child and working tax credits, by band of entitlement, is available in table 2.10 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Office of Government Commerce

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office of Government Commerce holds a framework agreement with Quality Health Ltd. [148867]

Angela Eagle: The Office of Government Commerce does not hold a framework agreement with Quality Health Ltd.

Taxation and Allowances

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer question 136787, on taxation and allowances, tabled on 8 May 2007 by the hon. Member for Blaydon. [147842]

Jane Kennedy: The Treasury regrets that my hon. Friend's question has not yet been answered. We will endeavour to reply to it as soon as possible.

Welfare Tax Credits: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in West Chelmsford were released from *(a)* working and *(b)* child tax credit repayments in each of the last four years. [148546]

Jane Kennedy: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in West Chelmsford have been (1) overpaid *(a)* working and *(b)* child tax credits in each of the last four years; [148547]

(2) in receipt of *(a)* working and *(b)* child tax credits in each of the last four years. [148548]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis", for each relevant year. These publications and provisional estimates for the number of families with tax credit awards, by constituency, as at selected dates in 2006-07 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credits forms TC846 were returned completed to the Tax Credit Office in each month from April 2003 to June 2007. [147752]

Jane Kennedy: Claimants can ask HM Revenue and Customs to reconsider a decision to ask them to repay their overpaid tax credits by writing to the department or by completing a form (TC846) that is provided for that purpose. HM Revenue and Customs do not separately count the number of requests made by using the TC846. For the total number of disputes received I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave to his earlier question on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 415-16W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

18. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to increase the supply of affordable housing in places where the cost of housing is high in relation to average incomes. [148321]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's response, published in 2005, to Kate Barker's Review of Housing Supply set out an ambition to increase housing supply to 200,000 per annum by 2016. We are increasing provision of social rented housing to 30,000 homes in 2007-08 and have said that social housing will be a priority in the 2007 spending review. And we have plans to help 120,000 people into low cost home ownership in the five years to 2010.

22. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in Solihull in each year since 1997. [148325]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of affordable homes supplied, in Solihull, in each year since 1997 are tabulated as follows. Figures include homes supplied through both new build and acquisitions.

Affordable housing supply: Solihull (West Midlands)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Social rent	47	69	18	141	33	34	38	68	42
Intermediate housing	13	16	7	22	0	23	57	75	102
Affordable (total)	*60*	*85*	*25*	*163*	*33*	*57*	*95*	*143*	*144*

Source:
Local Authorities, Housing Corporation

Housing Targets

19. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's target is for additional *(a)* council and *(b)* other social housing in the 2007-08 financial year and the next two financial years. [148322]

Yvette Cooper: For 2007-08, we are on course to deliver our target of 30,000 social rented homes. The vast majority will be delivered by housing associations with a small proportion by council, or private developers.

Future delivery will be subject to the outcome of comprehensive spending review 2007.

Unauthorised Gypsy Encampments

20. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy caravans there are on unauthorised encampments. [148323]

Mr. Iain Wright: The caravan count undertaken in January 2007 shows that there were 1,286 Gypsy and Traveller caravans on unauthorised encampments in England. There were 13,073 Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised sites.

Local Government Reorganisation

21. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress on local government reorganisation in the North West of England. [148324]

Hazel Blears: We announced on 27 March that proposals for single unitary authorities in Cheshire and Cumbria and a two unitary option in Cheshire would proceed to stakeholder consultation. The consultation closed on 22 June and we are currently considering all responses.

Unitary Government

23. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce the next round of decisions on unitary government. [148326]

Hazel Blears: It is our aim to announce the next round of decisions on unitary Government by the end of July, following our consideration of the responses received to the consultation exercise.

Home Information Packs

24. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future of the home information pack programme. [148327]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the implementation plan for Home Information Packs, which was laid in the House Library. This sets out the work that the programme will be undertaking over the coming months.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost to the public purse of the Home Information Pack and Sellers Pack schemes has been since 1997; and what estimate she has made of future expenditure. [143639]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my Noble Friend, Baroness Andrews, on 27 June 2007, House of Lords, *Official Report*, columns WA149-150. Expenditure for future years will be subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Planning Guidance

25. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to planning guidance she proposes in order to protect the viability of town and city centres. [148328]

Yvette Cooper: The "Planning White Paper—Planning for a Sustainable Future", made clear that we are fully committed to promoting the vitality and viability of town centres and to ensuring that the planning system supports the growth and development of town centres.

As the White Paper indicates, we intend to review the current approach in Planning Policy Statement 6: Town Centres (PPS6) to assessing the impact of proposals outside town centres. We will replace the need and impact tests with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and consumer choice.

We will consult on proposals later this summer and develop new guidance with the industry and other stakeholders, with a view to finalising any changes by spring 2008. We will also take account of the Competition Commission inquiry into the groceries market, before finalising any policy changes.

Council Housing: London

26. **Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the availability of council housing in London. [148329]

Yvette Cooper: We are increasing investment in social housing and looking at new ways for councils to also build homes on their land in addition to housing association building.

Council Housing: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to reduce carbon emissions from council homes. [147409]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Decent Homes Standard, which we expect every council home to meet, requires that homes have both efficient heating and effective insulation. This requirement will enable carbon emissions from council housing to be reduced.

Since 2001, over 470,000 dwellings have received work to improve their energy efficiency under the decent homes programme or as part of wider local authority work to update the stock. Since 2001 there has also been a 36 per cent. reduction in the number of social sector homes failing the Decent Homes Standard on the thermal comfort criterion.

Council Housing: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council homes there are in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the London borough of Havering. [147407]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of local authority owned dwellings in Essex, Havering and the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock are in the following table. Figures are as reported by local authorities as at the 31 March.

Local authority stock at 31 March 2006

	Number of dwellings
Essex county council	55,559
Southend-on-Sea unitary authority	6,232
Thurrock unitary authority	10,420
Havering	11,038

Source: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Essex county council local authorities comprise of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford.

Council Housing: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants in London were classed as living in cramped conditions in the last period for which figures are available. [147372]

Mr. Iain Wright: As indicated by the Survey of English Housing over the three years to 2005-06, there were an estimated 62,000 overcrowded households living in local authority accommodation in London.

Council Housing: Rents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outstanding arrears of rent on council-owned *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial property were in each London borough in (i) March 2005, (ii) March 2004, (iii) March 2003 and (iv) March 2002. [145219]

Mr. Iain Wright: The outstanding arrears of rent on council-owned residential property in each London borough in March 2005, March 2004, March 2003 and March 2002 are available in the following table. The information for council-owned commercial property is not collected centrally.

Outstanding arrears of rent on council-owed residential property in each London borough in March 2005, March 2004, March 2002 and March 2002, as reported by local authorities

£000

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	2,988	2,678	2,956	3,530
Barnet	1,938	1,724	2,243	2,224
Bexley	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Brent	3,956	3,013	3,761	3,194
Bromley	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Camden	4,697	4,424	5,015	4,293
City of London	240	177	142	189
Croydon	4,222	0	3,823	3,005
Ealing	7,950	7,059	6,772	6,255
Enfield	3,432	3,217	2,925	2,918
Greenwich	16,242	15,764	15,944	15,104
Hackney	27,506	25,961	21,834	14,350
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,024	3,796	3,797	3,826
Haringey	12,226	8,716	6,741	5,749
Harrow	677	1,566	1,361	1,219
Havering	1,429	1,761	1,832	1,445
Hillingdon	2,643	2,422	2,494	2,446
Hounslow	2,970	3,024	2,328	2,436
Islington	17,807	17,121	18,252	13,845
Kensington and Chelsea	2,367	2,370	1,745	2,701
Kingston upon Thames	1,426	1,629	1,844	1,864
Lambeth	29,329	23,190	17,154	21,505
Lewisham	8,448	7,622	6,835	7,614
Merton	1,014	927	993	1,086
Newham	8,066	7,291	7,538	10,763
Redbridge	1,343	1,088	1,155	1,232
Richmond upon Thames	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Southwark	25,117	17,293	15,734	12,359
Sutton	2,280	2,041	2,791	n/a
Tower Hamlets	4,327	4,001	4,515	8,459
Waltham Forest	5,146	4,603	5,845	4,278

Outstanding arrears of rent on council-owed residential property in each London borough in March 2005, March 2004, March 2002 and March 2002, as reported by local authorities

£000

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Wandsworth	6,587	5,833	4,801	4,433
Westminster	5,205	5,029	4,479	4,489

n/a = Data not provided by the London borough of Sutton in 2005.

[1] All or most of the local authority stock has been transferred to the Registered Social Landlord sector, so the rent arrears is no longer applicable.

Source:

Communities and Local Government Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Form, 2nd Advance.

Council Housing: Sales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants bought their council homes under the right-to-buy scheme in Romford in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [147378]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information specific to Romford constituency is not held centrally; however the numbers of local authority homes sold through the right to buy scheme in the London borough of Havering, in each financial year since 2003-04, are tabulated as follows:

Local authority stock sold through the right to buy scheme, Havering

	Number of homes
2003-04	258
2004-05	125
2005-06	103

Source:

P1B Return from local authorities to CLG

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants bought their council homes under the right-to-buy scheme in each year since 1997. [147379]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of local authority homes sold through the right-to-buy scheme, in each financial year since 1996-97, are tabulated as follows.

Local authority stock sold through the right-to-buy scheme: England

	Number of homes
1996-97	33,206
1997-98	41,329
1998-99	40,272
1999-2000	54,251
2000-01	52,380
2001-02	51,968
2002-03	63,394
2003-04	69,577
2004-05	49,983
2005-06	26,655

Note:

Data include estimates for non-responding authorities.

Source:

Returns (P1B) from local authorities to CLG

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local councils in *(a)* England and *(b)* London are not permitted to give reduced discounts on council homes sold via the right-to-buy scheme. [147405]

Mr. Iain Wright: No local council is able to reduce the discount available to tenants under the right to buy scheme. There is no discretion for local authorities to set right to buy discounts. The maximum level of discount available under the scheme is prescribed by the Secretary of State under section 131 of the Housing Act 1985.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to inform first-time buyers about the right-to-buy scheme. [147406]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social landlords are required by section 104 of the Housing Act 1985 to provide their secure tenants with information on the provisions of the right to buy scheme. Section 189 of the Housing Act 2004 places an additional duty on social landlords to supply information to tenants to help them to decide whether to exercise the right to buy. The matters on which information must be provided are specified in the Housing (Right to Buy) (Information to Secure Tenants) (England) Order 2005 (Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1735), and relate to the terms of the scheme (including eligibility and exceptions), the costs of home ownership (including mortgage, stamp duty, valuation fees and maintenance costs) and the risk of repossession if regular mortgage payments are not made.

Since 1980, the Government have produced a booklet for tenants, "Your right to buy your home", which social landlords are expected to provide to their tenants. The booklet describes the terms and procedures of the scheme and the costs of home ownership.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last year. [147194]

Hazel Blears: The information requested for the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor the Office of The Deputy Prime Minister is as set out in the table. The figures refer to the year 2006-07. They do not cover the Government Offices network, Departmental agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Number of periods of absence of fewer than 5 days	*Number of staff*
Five or more periods	128
Four periods	93
Three periods	156
Two periods	237

The Department is committed to managing sickness absence proactively and supporting managers in managing sickness absence effectively.

Emergency Services: Floods

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions

she has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* the Home Department and *(b)* Heath on assessing the capabilities of fire, rescue and emergency services to carry out their duties when flooding has taken place. [148348]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has provided specialised high volume pumping equipment to the fire and rescue service which was used in the recent flooding. The number of high volume pumps was sufficient to meet all operational requirements, and leave a cushion of spare capacity.

As is normal procedure following a significant event, Communities and Local Government will be conducting a lessons learned exercise into the fire and rescue services response.

A flooding work stream, led by Department for Food and Rural Affairs, under the cross-government Capabilities Programme, assesses whether local responders have what they need to address the flooding risks we face. This work informs the future development of the national flood capability, and complements that of responders at the local level, who undergo a similar process within their area.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list all publications containing current operational guidance issued to fire and rescue authorities. [148330]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Recently issued operational guidance for the fire and rescue service is available on the Communities and Local Government website, and a substantial proportion of older guidance such as fire and rescue service manuals is available from The Stationery Office.

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing all operational guidance issued to the fire and rescue service. This is likely to result in the review, reissue or withdrawal of some of the considerable body of existing guidance. After the review, a complete up to date list will be placed on the departmental website.

Flood Control

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will provide additional funding for local authorities to improve flood drains; and if she will make a statement; [146208]

(2) what funds the Government have made available for local authorities to improve flood drains; and if she will make a statement. [146209]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities have permissive powers to undertake flood defence work on ordinary watercourses[1] (which are outside Internal Drainage Board districts) and against flooding from the sea. They receive grants towards the cost of capital flood and coastal erosion risk management projects from DEFRA through Environment Agency Grant-in-Aid.

Local authorities also incur revenue expenditure on flood and coastal erosion risk management, typically on maintenance of defence or watercourses or non-grant eligible costs of capital schemes. This expenditure is supported through the local government finance system framework.

In addition, work on future funding levels is currently taking place in the context of negotiating DEFRA's Comprehensive Spending Review settlement. The outcome of this is expected to be announced in the autumn.

[1] Water Resources Act 1991 defines watercourses as any river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, culvert, dyke, sluice, sewer and passage through which water flows, except a public sewer.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions she has had with water companies on upgrading drainage systems to reduce the impact of flash flooding; and if she will make a statement; [146210]

(2) what regulations govern the upgrading of drainage systems where incidents of flash flooding have taken place; and if she will make a statement. [146211]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA Ministers and officials regularly meet with key water industry stakeholders to discuss a wide range of issues, including urban drainage systems.

Sewerage companies have a statutory duty to ensure the effectual drainage of their area. However, it would not be practical to extend this to an absolute duty to prevent sewer flooding under all circumstances. Ensuring compliance with the duty on sewerage companies is a matter for the economic regulator, Ofwat.

The Environment Agency, local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards have permissive powers to undertake work to manage the risk of flooding or to secure drainage and water level management under the Environment Act 1995, the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Housing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she has had with Ministers from the devolved administrations to discuss housing policy. [147964]

Mr. Iain Wright: Although there have not been recent meetings with the devolved administrations to discuss housing policy at ministerial level, there are regular contacts between senior officials to exchange information and consider housing issues of mutual interest.

Housing Associations: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations there are in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Romford. [147374]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 314 registered social landlords (RSLs) operating in Essex and 22 operating in Romford. Information is only available for RSLs.

There may be other housing associations operating in these areas that are not registered with the Housing Corporation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations there are in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Romford. [147963]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, [147374].

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the number of homes built in Bournemouth in each of the last five years which have been purchased as second homes. [148314]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of new homes built that have been purchased as second homes is not available centrally.

At 10 October 2005, around 2,500 dwellings of the total 80,300 stock in Bournemouth district council had a "second homes" discount on council tax (3.1 per cent.) according to figures reported by Bournemouth district council.

Source: Council Tax Base (CTBI) returns.

Housing: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-decent homes there are in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the London borough of Havering. [147960]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today.

Housing: Floods

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built on flood plains in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [146698]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 369W.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken to implement the Government's undertakings in reply to the Agriculture Committee's recommendation that a clear presumption should be made against future development in flood plain land where the flooding risk attached to a particular development is deemed to outweigh the benefits, given to the Agriculture Committee in response to its report Flood and Coastal Defence, HC707, 27 October 1998. [146883]

Mr. Iain Wright: In December 2006 we published Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 "Development and flood risk", which aims to avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas and direct development away from high risk areas by ensuring that sites at little or no risk of flooding are developed in preference to areas at higher risk. In the 10 per cent. of England at high risk of flooding PPS25 ensures that essential homes and services can be provided where it can be demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the flood risk and the development will be safe and not increase risk.

PPS25 strengthens and clarifies the policy established by Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 25, which was published in 2001 in response to the Agricultural Committee recommendation and the floods of Easter 1998 and autumn 2000.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built on designated floodplains in each year since 2000. [148334]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column. 369W.

Housing: Low Incomes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing properties were made available by property developers in each London borough in each of the last five years. [145495]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Act 2004 gave the Housing Corporation the power to provide grant to fund affordable housing to other bodies such as private developers. In 2006-07, a total of 260 social rented homes were provided by non-registered social landlords (RSL) through Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme. None of these homes were in London.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many planning permissions for housing development the granting of permission incorporated a condition that a proportion of the properties built should be affordable in each of the last 10 years for which records are available; and what proportion of new homes granted planning permission in this period were affordable. [148174]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control statistics from all local planning authorities in England. These statistics also include the number of planning decisions granted for major and minor developments relating to residential developments. However, we do not collect data on individual planning applications.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion

of planning permissions granted in each of the last 10 years for which records are available for residential development which included an element of affordable housing have been *(a)* started, *(b)* completed and *(c)* occupied. [148254]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collated in the format requested.

Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control statistics from all local planning authorities in England. These statistics also include the number of planning decisions granted for major and minor developments relating to residential development. However, we do not collect data on individual planning applications.

Housing: Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-decent homes there were in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the London borough of Havering in the latest period for which figures are available. [147370]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2006 local authorities and registered social landlords in Essex reported that they had between them 20,325 non decent homes, out of 86,072 homes.

In the London borough of Havering, registered social landlords and the council reported that they had 3,621 non decent homes out of 13,125 homes.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to ensure that private build houses meet the same standards as those completed by housing associations. [147965]

Mr. Iain Wright: All newly built housing, irrespective of whether privately or publicly funded, is subject to the minimum standards specified in the building regulations. Beyond that, builders and developers in the private sector are generally free to design housing as they wish, responding to market and consumer demand.

In relation to sustainability, the majority of new homes built with Government funds allocated after April 2007, and all new homes built with Government funds allocated after April 2008, must comply with Level 3 of the code for sustainable homes. This sets standards across nine areas of sustainability and goes significantly beyond the standards set in building regulations. Private build houses are not required to meet standards above building regulations. However in our consultation document 'Building a Greener Future' published in December 2006 we suggested that all new homes (public and private) should be required to have a mandatory rating against the code from April 2008, indicating whether they have been assessed and, if so, the performance of the home against the code. We believe that this will encourage higher take-up of the code in the private sector.

We are currently considering responses to our consultation and will make a further announcement shortly.

Internet: Taxation

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much taxation was collected from wi-fi installations by or on behalf of the relevant collections authorities during 2006-07. [148365]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government holds no data on how much taxation was collected specifically from wi-fi installations during 2006-07. Wi-fi installations, if rateable, are not separately identified from the mobile phone and broadcast wireless installations described as 'Communications Stations' in the local rating lists. A breakdown of the rating lists to separately identify wi-fi installations is not therefore possible.

Local Authorities: Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Audit Commission performance rating is for each local authority housing department in England; and what stock options strategy each is following. [144157]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the housing scores and decent homes delivery option for each of the 115 unitary local authorities in England has been placed in the Library of the House. There is no annual assessment of district council housing functions as with single tier authorities through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment framework.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities had their accounts qualified in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [146151]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and the Chief Executive was asked to write to the hon. Member. The Chief Executive subsequently replied to him on 28 June and I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 28 June 2007:

Your parliamentary question on which local authorities had their accounts qualified in (a) 2005-06 and (b) 2006-07 has been passed to me for reply.

As at the date of this letter, the 2005-06 accounts of the following seven principal local authorities have been qualified:

Bedfordshire County Council

Cornwall County Council

Dacorum Borough Council

Eastbourne Borough Council

Hull City Council

New Forest District Council

Norwich City Council

Because of the statutory timetable for the preparation and audit of the 2006-07 accounts, audit work is still in progress and we do not currently have any information on qualifications.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Local Government Finance: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was per household of the Government grant to local government in 2006 for *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council and *(b)* Telford and Wrekin borough council. [147674]

John Healey: The figures for the two authorities are not comparable because Shrewsbury and Atcham council, as a shire district council, carries out fewer functions than Telford and the Wrekin borough council, which is a unitary council.

According to revenue account budget returns submitted by local authorities to the Department, the total amounts of revenue grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and specific and special grants inside aggregate external finance) budgeted to be received by Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council and Telford and the Wrekin borough council for 2006-07 were £7.6 million and £175.6 million respectively.

These amounts are equivalent to £185 and £2,660 per household respectively, using estimates of the number of households in each local authority's area in 2004, as published at:

http://www.communities.gov. uk/pub/104/Table406_id1156104.xls

Local Government: Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total back pay liability for all expected years is for each local authority that has applied for a capitalisation direction in respect of equal pay; and how much each authority is seeking to have capitalised. [146750]

John Healey: A number of local authorities are currently engaged in complex negotiations with their employees and Trade Unions, the outcome of which will determine the scale of their liability, if any, under the Equal Pay Act. Publishing the information requested could prejudice ongoing negotiations.

Planning Permission: Retail Trade

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend the General Permitted Development Order to require planning permission for change of use of small shop units into large ones. [148394]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, [147857].

Whether planning permission is required for the merger of shop units depends on what work is proposed. Unless a change of use is involved, planning permission will not usually be required if the merger involves only internal works. Transforming small shop units into large ones would not usually be considered a change of use. However, where works would affect the external appearance of a building, planning permission is likely to be required. Where planning permission is needed, local planning authorities can already prevent the merger of shop units through imposing planning conditions in the context of their planning strategy for their town centres. "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres" (PPS6) gives further advice on the effective use of planning conditions to ensure that the character of a development cannot subsequently be changed to create a form of development that a local authority would originally have refused.

We have no plans to change the current arrangements.

Regional Planning and Development: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are for infrastructure improvements in North Northamptonshire to coincide with the expansion in housing. [148421]

Yvette Cooper: The provision of appropriate infrastructure is clearly critical to the effective delivery of the Sustainable Communities Plan. Since 2004, the Government working with partners in the Northamptonshire area have invested £100 million additional funding through the Growth Area Fund in Northamptonshire.

Furthermore the Government have set up an Inter Regional Board dedicated to delivering the coordination of sustainable growth across the Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth area reporting directly to Ministers.

Officials from the Department, the Government Office for the East Midlands and the Department for Transport are working closely with local partners to develop a package of measures to resolve the particular issues associated with the A14 and the local transport networks in the Wellingborough and Kettering area. I expect further details to emerge from that work towards the end of the year, when we will have a clearer picture on timing and the phasing of development.

Work with other agencies on the wider infrastructure issues is also progressing and these matters will be the subject of further consideration at the Examination in Public of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy commencing in October this year. The purpose of the examination will be to test the "soundness" of the plan, which includes the delivery of infrastructure.

In addition, from the commencement of the new East Midlands Rail Franchise timetable in December 2008, rail passengers will benefit from a new hourly service between Kettering and London (including Wellingborough), increasing the number of off peak services on the midland main line to five trains per hour. It has also been agreed in principle to extend this service to a new station at Corby from December 2008.

Revenue Support Grant

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration her Department has given to the position of local authorities on the revenue support grant floor under the pooled funding arrangements to take effect from April 2008 to support local area agreements. [147085]

John Healey: The pooled funding arrangements supporting local area agreements will have no effect on the distribution of Formula Grant to local authorities.

Shops: Planning Permission

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to require planning permission for the merger of ground floor shop units. [147857]

Mr. Iain Wright: Whether planning permission is required for the merger of shop units depends on what work is proposed to be carried out. Unless a change of use is involved, planning permission will not usually be required if the merger involves only internal works. However, where works would affect the external appearance of a building, planning permission is likely to be required. Where planning permission is needed, local planning authorities can already prevent the merger of shop units through imposing planning conditions in the context of their planning strategy for their town centres. "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres" (PPS6) gives further advice on the effective use of planning conditions to ensure that the character of a development cannot subsequently be changed to create a form of development that a local authority would originally have refused.

We have no plans to change the current requirements.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to require planning permission for conversion of class A1 shops into coffee shops or internet cafés. [147858]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have already made a number of positive changes to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). Planning permission is now needed to convert a shop under Class A1: "Shops" into a coffee shop under Class A3: "Restaurants and Cafés". This class was designed specifically for businesses where the primary purpose is the sale and consumption of food and light refreshments on the premises. The Use Classes Order also allows Class A3 uses to change to Class A1 uses without planning permission.

In 2005 the Government changed the Use Classes Order to expand Use Class A1 to include internet cafés which are premises where the primary purpose is to provide access for members of the public to the internet. Internet cafés provide a valuable service to the public and contribute to the vitality and viability of high streets. Planning permission is therefore not needed to convert a shop into an internet café, and the Government has no plans to change the Use Classes Order in this regard.

Local authorities have a range of tools available to them to plan proactively for the character and future vitality and viability of their high streets and Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres advises on the scope of some of these. In addition, the Planning White Paper, Planning for a Sustainable Future, published in May 2007, set out proposals to introduce a new impact test which will improve consumer choice and promote competition and which will enable local authorities to better test the likely impact of development proposals outside town centres on town centre shops and services.

South West Regional Assembly

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running cost of the South West Regional Assembly was in each of the last five years. [147948]

John Healey: Government grant since 2003 to the South West Regional Assembly in order for it to undertake its Regional Scrutiny, Planning and Housing functions is set out in the following table:

South West Regional Assembly

	£
2003-04	1,613,000
2004-05	2,101,000
2005-06	2,101,000
2006-07	2,289,500
2007-08	2,470,164

Subsidence

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if her Department will take account of issues relating to severe and widespread subsidence in public areas caused by historic mine workings in the annual local authority budget allocation process; [141951]

(2) whether public money is available for areas of historic iron ore mining or other non-coal mining areas on the same basis as that made available to historic coal mining areas; and if she will make a statement; [141952]

(3) what representations her Department has received from *(a)* the relevant non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* Cumbria County Council on the subsidence issues caused by historic mineworkings in the town of Egremont; [141953]

(4) which non-departmental public bodies have delegated responsibilities for dealing with widespread and severe subsidence in public places. [141954]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government set the overall level of grant to local authorities in the spending review and will be considering all identified future pressures on local authorities, and the ways in which these can be mitigated, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. However, primarily the route for assistance with funding for local authorities for subsidence caused by historic non-coal mine workings is through the Land Stabilisation Programme.

The Land Stabilisation Programme (LSP) can provide local authorities with help with funding for land instability works due to abandoned non-coal mines which are likely to collapse and therefore pose a problem to life and property. Local authorities in England are eligible to apply to English Partnerships, the non-departmental public body managing the programme on behalf of Communities and Local Government. Extensive guidance on the assistance

available, eligibility conditions and how to apply for funding can be found on the English Partnerships website at:

www.englishpartnerships.co.uk

Cumbria county council approached English Partnerships in August 2005 to explore the possibility of LSP funding after the collapse of a mineshaft in June 2005 at Greenmoor Road, Egremont. Following a meeting with and receipt of information from the council, English Partnerships concluded that the mineshaft treatment proposals did not comply with the terms of reference of the LSP. English Partnerships wrote to the council in September 2005 advising that the proposed project was not eligible for LSP funding.

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a decision on the Thames Gateway Bridge. [148577]

Mr. Dhanda: We are currently reviewing the Inspector's report, inquiry evidence and all post-inquiry representations, and will issue a decision as soon as possible.

Thurrock Development Corporation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost of the Thurrock Development Corporation has been since it was constituted; and if she will make a statement. [145921]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* To date, Communities and Local Government has allocated the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation a capital budget of £63 million and its revenue spending amounts to a total of £36.5 million since 2003—the inception of the Corporation.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she plans to use the powers contained in Part 1, Chapter 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, if enacted, to invite district councils to submit revised proposals for unitary structures on the basis of administrative areas with boundaries which exceed existing district council boundaries; [146454]

(2) if she will make it her policy not to invite new proposals for unitary status for at least two years after the completion of the review exercise. [146462]

John Healey: We have no plans for further rounds of restructuring. However, the Bill provides for an invitation to councils to come forward with unitary proposals. There may, for example, be a case for inviting a council to make proposals where that might be necessary to make sense of a boundary change.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and how many and what percentage were performed *(a)* to save the life of the mother and *(b)* where the child would have been seriously disabled. [148069]

Dawn Primarolo: There were 5.5 million (5,483,438) abortions performed in England and Wales on residents between 1968 and 2006.

In the period between 1968 and 2002[1], 23,726 (0.4 per cent.) were performed under Section 1(4)[2] and Section 1(1)(c)[3] of the Abortion Act, to save the life of the mother.

In the period between 1968 and 2006, 72,220 (1.3 per cent.) were performed under Section 1(1)(d)[4] of the Abortion Act.

[1] For 2003 onwards, these data are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality as the presented value would reveal a total of less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

[2] "that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman".

[3] "that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated".

[4] "that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped".

Source:

Statistical Bulletin: Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women seeking an abortion in England gave addresses in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Republic of Ireland, *(c)* Israel, *(d)* Malta and *(e)* Poland in 2006. [148070]

Dawn Primarolo: In England and Wales, in 2006, there were 1,295 abortions for residents of Northern Ireland, 5,042 for residents of the Republic of Ireland, 55 for residents of Malta and 10 for residents of Poland. There were less than five abortions (between 0-4)[1] for residents of Israel.

[1] For confidentiality reasons, the actual number cannot be disclosed. This is line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Source:

Statistical Bulletin, Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 primary care organisations had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest abortion rates in England per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years in 2006. [148105]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Abortion Rates: Highest and Lowest 10 Primary Care Trusts per 1,000 Women Aged 15 to 44 years, 2006

		Age standardised rate
	England	18.5
	Highest Rates	
5LE	Southwark	43.1
5LD	Lambeth	40.7
5LF	Lewisham	38.9
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	37.5
	City and Hackney	
5C3	Teaching	36.2
5K5	Brent Teaching	35.4
5C5	Newham	34.3
5A8	Greenwich Teaching	32.6
5C9	Haringey Teaching	32.3
5NC	Waltham Forest	31.9
	Lowest rates	
5PP	Cambridgeshire	10.9
5CN	Herefordshire	11.4
5KF	Gateshead	11.7
5ND	County Durham	12.0
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire	12.3
5N9	Lincolnshire	12.6
5QQ	Devon	12.7
5NF	North Lancashire	12.7
5NV	North Yorkshire and York	12.9
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS	12.9

Source: Statistical Bulletin, Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* Essex Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* England and Wales had an abortion in 2006 who had already had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five previous abortions. [148299]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Number of previous abortions for Essex and England and Wales residents, 2006

	Number of previous abortions						
	0	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 or more*	*Total*
Essex Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)[1]	3,686	1,322	325	68	25	13	5,439
England and Wales	131,833	47,156	10,944	2,501	947	356	193,737

[1] Essex PCTs are Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex, South West Essex and West Essex and come within East of England Strategic Health Authority.

Note:

For confidentiality reasons, totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 to 9) cases, in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Source: Statistical Bulletin, Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006.

Blood Donors

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what dates blood donations were made to the UK Blood Service by UK blood donors who later developed vCJD; and if he will make a statement; [147585]

(2) how many UK blood donors have developed vCJD after donating blood to the UK Blood Service; and if he will make a statement. [147588]

Dawn Primarolo: Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) has been subsequently diagnosed in 18 people who before they developed symptoms of disease had donated blood in the United Kingdom which was transfused to recipients. These blood donations were made between 1981 and 2004, and 66 people have been identified who received blood from these donations. Some of these donations were made many years before vCJD was identified (and before Bovine Spongiform encephalopathy was described).

Breast Cancer

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Cancer Reform Strategy will include plans to introduce national monitoring of the incidence of metastatic breast cancer. [148770]

Ann Keen: Suggestions around the need to monitor nationally the incidence of metastatic breast cancer have been raised during the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy. However, the strategy is still being developed and it is too early to say what the final content will be.

Cancer: Drugs

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer drugs have been referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal; what the date of *(a)* referral and *(b)* where applicable, the decision was of each; which drugs were (i) approved and (ii) not approved; and which type of cancer each drug treated. [146760]

Dawn Primarolo: Published technology appraisals from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) have decisions which are grouped into three categories:

where the treatment(s) is recommended for routine use in the national health service;

where the treatment(s) is recommended for selective use in the NHS (i.e. for certain patients, after other treatments have failed etc); and

where the treatment(s) is recommended for use in research only or is not recommended.

The following table lists all the technology appraisals relating to cancer treatments published by NICE to the end of June 2007, including the date of referral, the condition and the drugs appraised, the date the guidance was published, the number of the appraisal (TA#) and the decision.

TA#	Condition and drugs appraised	Referral date	Publication	Recommendation
3	ovarian cancer—paclitaxel (Taxol)	4 November 1999	May 2000	Selective
6	breast cancer—docetaxel (Taxotere), paclitaxel (Taxol)	4 November 1999	June 2000	Selective
23	recurrent malignant glioma—temozolomide (Temodal)	12 July 2000	April 2001	Selective
25	pancreatic cancer gemcitabine (Gemzar)	12 July 2000	May 2001	Selective
26	lung cancer (non-small cell)—paclitaxel (Taxol), docetaxel (Taxotere), gemcitabine (Gemzar), vinorelbine (Navelbine)	12 July 2000	June 2001	Routine
28	ovarian cancer (advanced)—topetecan (Hycamtin)	12 July 2000	August 2001	Selective
29	chronic lymphocytic leukaemia—fludarabine (Fludara)	12 July 2000	September 2001	Routine
30	breast cancer—docetaxel (Taxotere), paclitaxel (Taxol)	Review of TA06 12 July 2000	September 2001	Selective
33	colorectal cancer (advanced)—irinotecan (Campto), oxaliplatin (Eloxatin), raltitrexed (Tomudex)	12 July 2000	March 2002	Selective
34	breast cancer (advanced)—trastuzumab (Herceptin)	12 July 2000	March 2002	Selective
37	non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	12 July 2000	March 2002	Selective
45	ovarian cancer—pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride (Caelyx)	12 March 2001	July 2002	Selective
50	chronic myeloid leukaemia—imatinib (Glivec)	12 March 2001	September 2002	Routine
54	breast cancer (advanced)—vinorelbine (Navelbine)	12 July 2000	December 2002	Selective
55	ovarian cancer—paclitaxel (Taxol)	Review of TA03 12 July 2000	January 2003	Routine
61	colorectal cancer (Metastatic)—capecitabine (Xeloda), tegafur with uracil (Uftoral)	31 July 2001	May 2003	Routine
62	breast cancer (locally advanced)—capecitabine (Xeloda)	31 July 2001	May 2003	Routine
65	aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	20 May 2002	September 2003	Selective
70	chronic myeloid leukaemia—imatinib (Glivec)	Review of TA50 20 May 2002	October 2003	Selective
86	gastro-intestinal stromal tumours (GIST)—imatinib (Glivec)	31 March 2003	October 2004	Selective
91	ovarian cancer (advanced)—paclitaxel (Taxol), pegylated liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride (Caelyx), topotecan (Hycamtin)	Review of TA28, TA45 and TA55	May 2005	Selective
93	colorectal cancer (advanced)—irinotecan (Campto), oxaliplatin (Eloxatin), raltitrexed (Tomudex)	Review of TA33 1 April 2005	August 2005	Selective
100	colon cancer (adjuvant)—oxaliplatin (Eloxatin), capecitabine (Xeloda)	21 June 2004	April 2006	Routine
101	prostate cancer (hormone refractory)—docetaxel (Taxotere)	21 June 2004	June 2006	Routine
107	breast cancer (early)—trastuzumab (Herceptin)	21 July 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005). Licence granted for use in early breast cancer May 2006	August 2006	Selective
108	breast cancer (early)—paclitaxel (Taxol)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	September 2006	Not recommended
109	breast cancer (early)—docetaxel (Taxotere)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	September 2006	Routine
110	follicular lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	September 2006	Routine
112	breast cancer (early)—anastrozole (Arimidex), exemestane (Aromasin), letrozole (Femara)	21 June 2004	November 2006	Routine

TA#	Condition and drugs appraised	Referral date	Publication	Recommendation
116	metastatic breast cancer—gemcitabine (Gemzar)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	January 2007	Selective
118	metastatic colorectal cancer—bevacizumab (Avastin) and cetuximab (Erbitux)	21 June 2004	January 2007	Not recommended
119	chronic lymphocytic leukaemia—fludarabine (Fludara)	Review of TA29 5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005. Deferred July 2006 awaiting Medical Research Council trial)	February 2007	Not recommended
121	glioma (newly diagnosed and high grade)—carmustine implants (Gliadel) and temozolomide (Temodal)	21 June 2004	June 2007	Selective

There are also a number of appraisals of cancer drugs on NICE's work programme on which guidance has not yet been issued. The following table lists all the technology appraisals relating to cancer treatments, including the date of referral, the condition and the drugs appraised, whether they are being appraised as a Single Technology Appraisal (STA) or Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA), the status of the appraisal and where available the expected date of issue.

STA/MTA	Condition and drugs appraised	Referral date	Status	Expected date of issue
STA	breast cancer (advanced or metastatic)—lapatinib (Tyverb)	19 December 2006	—	TBC
STA	colon cancer (adjuvant)—irinotecan (Campto)	16 June 2004 (transferred to STA programme August 2006)	Suspended: Campto is not currently licensed in the United Kingdom for this indication.	TBC
STA	non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—rituximab (MabThera)	Review of TA37 5 April 2005	—	December 2007
STA	glioblastoma multiforme (recurrent)—carmustine implants (Gliadel)	21 June 2004 (transferred to STA programme August 2006)	—	January 2008
STA	head and neck cancer—cetuximab (Erbitux)	21 June 2004	Three appeals have been made against the Final Appraisal Determination.	To be confirmed—subject to outcome of appeals.
STA	lung cancer (non small cell)—bevacizumab (Avastin)	19 December 2006	—	January 2008
STA	lung cancer (non small cell)—erlotinib (Tarceva)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	NICE awaits the decision of the appeal hearing heard on 6 June 2007.	To be confirmed—subject to outcome of appeals.
STA	lung cancer (non small cell)—pemetrexed (Alimta)	5 April 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	NICE awaits the decision of the appeal hearing heard on 6 June 2007.	To be confirmed—subject to outcome of appeals.
MTA	lung cancer (non small cell)—gefitinib (Iressa)	1 April 2003	Suspended: Iressa is not currently licensed in the UK for this indication.	To be confirmed
MTA	mesothelioma—pemetrexed disodium	21 June 2004	—	September 2007
STA	relapsed multiple myeloma—bortezomib (Velcade)	21 July 2005 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	—	To be confirmed
STA	pancreatic cancer—Rubetican	21 June 2004 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	Suspended: The manufacturers have withdrawn their licence application.	To be confirmed
STA	prostate cancer (hormone refractory)—Atrasentan	21 June 2004 (transferred to STA programme November 2005)	Suspended: Atrasentan is not currently licensed in the UK for this indication.	To be confirmed
STA	breast cancer—bevacizumab (Avastin)	19 June 2007	—	To be confirmed

STA/MTA	Condition and drugs appraised	Referral date	Status	Expected date of issue
MTA	renal cell carcinoma—bevacizumab (Avastin), sorafenib tosylate (Nexavar) and sunitinib (Sutent)	19 June 2007	—	To be confirmed

Clinical Trials

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1735W, on clinical trials, on what date the implementation group set up by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency was established; on how many occasions it has met since; and over what timescale he expects each of the recommendations contained within the report of the Independent Expert Scientific Group on clinical trials to be implemented; [147500]

(2) whether the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency assesses the size of doses to be administered to volunteers in clinical trials on the basis of minimum anticipated biological effect levels; [147537]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1735-36W, on clinical trials, whether the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has established an expert advisory group to advise on applications for clinical trials on higher risk substances. [147550]

Dawn Primarolo: The Implementation Group established by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to take forward the recommendations made by the independent Expert Scientific Group (ESG) held its first meeting on 27 September 2006 and has met a further four times since then.

The MHRA assesses the starting doses to be administered to volunteers in clinical trials based on available toxicology and pharmacology data.

In general, the calculation of the first dose in man is based on the no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) determined in non-clinical safety studies performed in the most sensitive and relevant animal species. However, a calculation of the minimal anticipated biological effect level (MABEL) is also used and this approach is considered to be more appropriate than the NOAEL when the results of animal studies are thought less likely to predict the effect of the molecule in man.

The MHRA has established an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) of the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) to advise on applications for clinical trials on higher risk substances, and it held its first meeting on 18 March 2007. Prior to this, and since the ESG formulated its interim advice in July 2006, advice on applications for clinical trials on higher risk substances was obtained from the CHM.

Progress is being made on implementing the ESG report recommendations as follows:

Recommendation one concerns the drug development process itself and the need for those involved in such programmes to be appropriately trained. The former will be addressed in the revised European Union guidance which we expect to be published by the end of July 2007. The MHRA is having discussions with relevant bodies on the latter with a view to developing a training and accreditation scheme for investigators for Phase 1 trials. We do not expect this recommendation to be implemented before 2008.

Recommendation two proposes a regular review of the regulatory process and has already been implemented as one of the responsibilities of the newly formed EAG.

Recommendations three and four propose that clinical and pre-clinical unpublished studies relevant to the safety of human exposure need to be collected in a format that can be shared confidentially between regulators. Discussions on the proposal have taken place with the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) and they will discuss the recommendations with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and with the International Conference for Harmonisation (ICH) to involve the wider regulatory population. The EMEA will also ask the European Commission about raising the issue of data sharing with other countries. The EU databases will need amendment to enable the information to be collected. We do not expect these recommendations to be implemented before 2008.

Recommendations five and eight recommend earlier dialogue between regulator and drug developer, and better communication between regulator and ethics committees. The recommendation on earlier dialogue has been implemented through establishing a procedure that allows for informal discussion and submission of data on higher risk substances in advance of submission of the formal clinical trial application. This will avoid the need to lengthen current formal approval times.

The recommendation on better communication was implemented in October 2006 through adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between MHRA and ethics committees.

Recommendations six and seven recommend the regulator should have access to additional advice from experts and were implemented by establishment of the EAG of the CHM in March 2007.

Recommendations nine to 17 concern determining and administering the initial doses of a drug in man and are addressed in the guidance being developed by the EU scientific committee, which should be published by the end of July 2007. In the meantime the MHRA is operating interim arrangements that take account of these recommendations.

Recommendation 18 refers to the training of principal investigators and is being progressed with recommendation 1.

Recommendation 19 proposes development of a treatment strategy when drawing up protocols for trials involving higher risk substances and will be addressed in the EU guidance.

Recommendation 20 specifies the facilities that should be available for first in man studies of higher risk substances. The MHRA is developing a voluntary accreditation scheme for Phase 1 units which will provide assurances that they have appropriate facilities available. This scheme will be available from April 2008, although we expect an informal self assessment scheme to be implemented shortly, prior to the scheme being finalised.

Recommendation 21 advocates widening availability of "hands-on" experience in the conduct of clinical trials and has wide-ranging implications for industry and those responsible for the training of medical personnel. Although discussions are under way, it is unlikely that this recommendation will be implemented before 2008.

Recommendation 22 considers the need for specialist Phase 1 centres, and we propose this should be addressed via the proposed accreditation scheme, which should provide assurance in the longer term that trials are conducted only in units with suitable facilities and staff.

Community Care

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to ensure that recipients of domiciliary care commissioned by a local authority have continuity of care protected during a change in care provider; [146599]

(2) what redress is open to clients in receipt of domiciliary care commissioned by a local authority in circumstances where they have had their carer withdrawn by the local authority without provision for alternative support services being made. [146600]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* Local authorities are responsible for assessing the care needs of their populations and providing or arranging care services to meet those needs. It is for local authorities to ensure that people's assessed needs are met on a day to day basis, regardless of how services are delivered. Local authorities are responsible for setting the criteria that determine people's eligibility for care. They do so based on local need and may also take into account their resources.

A person receiving domiciliary care services arranged by a local authority will receive such services, following the process of assessment of their need for such a service carried out by the authority, under section 47 of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, taking into account relevant directions and guidance from the Secretary of State.

Changes may be made by the local authority to the services received following a reassessment under section 47 and an authority may temporarily provide urgently needed services without an assessment, pending the completion of an assessment.

People who have services withdrawn (or their representatives) are entitled to make use of the local authority social services complaints procedure. Procedures for handling complaints about the provision of domiciliary care services are set out in the Local Authority Social Services Complaints (England) Regulations (S.I.2006/1681). Information on how to make a complaint is available from local authority offices.

Contraceptives: Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the impact of the morning-after pill on the overall abortion rate in England; and if he will make a statement; [148067]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for trends in the abortion rate in England between 2005 and 2006; and if he will make a statement; [148106]

(3) what the most recent abortion rate was per 1,000 women aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* under 14 years in the UK; and what forecast he has made of the rate in each of the next 20 years. [148107]

Dawn Primarolo: No research has been commissioned or is planned in this specific area and no future forecast of abortion rates has been made.

The reasons women seek an abortion are complex and may be subject to a number of different factors. It is difficult to attribute any changes to one intervention or event such as the increased availability of emergency contraception.

Information on abortion rates for residents of England and Wales can be found in Table 4a of "Statistical Bulletin: Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006", copies of which are available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of dental activity (UDAs) are available to dentists in each primary care trust in England; and how many UDAs this equates to per person within each primary care trust area. [148482,

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the form requested. Information is available on the level of service commissioned.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) commission dental services from local dental providers. Information is collected centrally on the number of contracts each PCT holds and the units of dental activity (UDAs) these represent. UDAs are a way of measuring and giving relative weight to the courses of treatment given to patients. The latest information showing the total number of UDAs commissioned as at 31 March 2007 by PCT and the same data expressed per head of population are set out in tables which have been placed in the Library. The latest available population data are as at 2005.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and

which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146342]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information on consultant spend in the format requested.

Total departmental spend on consultants was:

Consultancy expenditure

	£ million
2004-05	111
2005-06	126

The following consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million:

Total annual consultancy expenditure accounted for by supplier for 2004-05 and 2005-06

	Consultancy supplier name	£ million
1	Wragges	14.2
2	Addelshaw	10.8

It should be noted that these figures exclude VAT.

Departments: Management

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role is of his Department's departmental management board. [147563]

Dawn Primarolo: The role of the departmental management board (DMB) is to provide strategic leadership to the Department, support Ministers in developing and policy and strategy for the health and care system and oversee its implementation.

A review of the role of the DMB will be undertaken as part of the Department's response to its recent capability review.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which members of his Department are included in his Department's senior leadership team; and if he will make a statement. [147564]

Dawn Primarolo: The senior leadership team brings together directors general and directors in the Department (senior civil service paybands two and three). Its purpose is to develop a shared approach to corporate leadership of the Department.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146986]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of staff who received bonus payments in the last three years and the total amount of bonus paid is as follows:

	Normal	£
2004-05	679	1,064,465
2005-06	581	1,252,141
2006-07	420	1,400,049

A significant proportion of bonuses paid were to staff who are senior civil servants, where the Department's policy is determined by the Cabinet Office guidance on civil service bonuses.

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146920]

Dawn Primarolo: The annual report process for 2006-07 is not yet completed, therefore data are not available.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's budget was for each year *(a)* before and *(b)* after reprofiling, broken down into capital, near-cash and non-cash. [146534]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's near-cash, non-cash and capital budget is set out in the 2007 Department Report. Previous controls are set out in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses publications. Budget 2006 set out information regarding the reprofiling of departmental resources along with other routine and technical changes.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147049]

Dawn Primarolo: Our records show:

81 staff have taken five or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months;

60 staff have taken four periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months;

153 staff have taken three periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months;

261 have taken two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in which aspects of his Department's policy-making his Department has recognised weaknesses, as stated on page 22 of the Cabinet Office's Capability Review of the Department of Health, published on 22 June 2007; [147558]

(2) in which areas the quality of briefing to Ministers has been diminished as a result of weaknesses in the Department's policy-making, as stated on page 22 of the Capability Review of the Department, published on 22 June 2007; [147560]

(3) which parts of his Department are not confident in the use of *(a)* economic and social analysis and *(b)* evidence to support policy-making, as stated on page 21 of the Capability Review of the Department, published on 22 June 2007. [147562]

Dawn Primarolo: The purpose of departmental Capability Reviews is to use honest and robust assessments of future capabilities to identify the specific measures that are needed if central Government Departments are to play their part in enabling the United Kingdom to meet the considerable challenges of the future.

The Cabinet Office's Capability Review of the Department was based on evidence from the Department itself, interviews and meetings with a wide range of external stakeholders, as well as a cross-section of departmental staff. The judgments reflect a considered overall view of the Department, and the permanent secretaries have welcomed the report as a timely and valuable assessment of the Department as a whole, and the challenges it faces, including challenges in the area of policy-making. However neither this nor any other review was designed to provide a comprehensive picture of the particular strengths and weaknesses of individual parts of departments and their work.

The report describes the aspects of policy-making that are not consistently strong. The Department is already taking action on these. Better policy-making, the Department's plans for a system of policy governance to improve policy-making capability across the organisation, was published in April 2007. In addition, the Department's analytical capability has been relocated from central teams to individual policy directorates to improve the use of evidence in policy-making, and a horizon scanning capability is being established to bolster the Department's ability to predict future trends in healthcare.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to assist the governments of Jersey and Guernsey in the implementation of the European Union legislation relating to food supplements, nutrition and health claims made on food and the current medicine directives. [147532]

Dawn Primarolo: The Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, the Food Supplements Directive and the Medicines Directive remove barriers to the free movement of goods within the European Union by regulating content, sale and labelling of products. Jersey and Guernsey are not part of the European Union (EU), instead they have a relationship with the EU provided by Protocol 3 of the United Kingdom's Treaty of Accession to the European Community. Discussions on exactly how the requirements of these Directives apply to the Channel Islands are continuing between the UK and the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is supporting the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in their communications with the Channel Islands over these directives, and has had correspondence with the Chief Executive of Guernsey on this issue. The MHRA will give advice and assistance as requested by the Bailiwicks to implement Medicines Directives. The FSA will give advice and assistance as requested by the Bailiwicks to implement the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutritional and Health Claims Directive.

The FSA, MHRA and MoJ have met with the Health Food Manufacturers' Association to discuss issues relating to the trade in food supplements and unlicensed medicinal products via the Channel Islands. Further information has been requested from the industry association to assist in discussions with the island governments.

The MHRA's response to the consultation by the Bailiwick of Guernsey on its draft medicines legislation said that the proposed legislation did not implement the Medicines Directive; it offered assistance to the Bailiwick of Guernsey in implementing the Directive and asked for the Bailiwick's proposed timescale.

Elderly: Nutrition

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent older people suffering from malnutrition in hospital. [148534]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* As part of the Dignity in Care campaign, which has initially focused on the care needs of older people, I held a Nutrition Summit in March 2007, which was attended by leading charities, clinicians, nutrition experts and care home representatives. At that event, I announced that we would be working to produce a joint departmental and stakeholder Nutrition Action Plan to tackle the issues of nutrition and nutritional care. The action plan is being developed and applies to all adults. It is planned to be published this summer.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department made available to *(a)* the Food Standards Agency and *(b)* other bodies for the purposes of conducting agricultural biotechnology research in each of the last 10 years. [146235]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The Department has provided no money to the Food Standards Agency, or any other body, for the purposes of conducting agricultural biotechnology research.

HIV Infection: Tuberculosis

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual cost is of treating a patient with *(a)* HIV and *(b)* tuberculosis. [148258]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the costs associated with the treatment of HIV and TB, either by case or in total, are not routinely collected. Costs of treating people with HIV vary depending on the severity of symptoms and level of immune suppression.

IVF: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the change in the cost of in-vitro fertilisation treatment in the *(a)* NHS and *(b)* private sector arising from the introduction of the current regulatory regime. [148427]

Dawn Primarolo: The provision of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment, in the national health service and the independent sector, has been regulated under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 since 1 August 1991. No assessment has been made of the changes to the cost of IVF following the introduction of the Act.

On 5 July 2007, the Act was amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Quality and Safety) Regulations 2007, to bring the provisions of the European Union directive on the safety and quality of human tissues and cells for human application fully into force in respect of gametes and embryos. The regulations require establishments providing IVF to meet environmental and practice standards intended to ensure that only safe, high quality tissue is used in a patient's treatment.

While many of the provisions in the directive mirrored existing requirements in the 1990 Act and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's code of practice, IVF clinics are likely to incur some costs in meeting the standards, although costs are likely to vary significantly between establishments. The regulatory impact assessment (RIA), prepared for the implementation of the directive, commented on potential costs to the fertility sector of complying with the standards. A copy of the RIA is available in the Library.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the benefits of prescribing Dasatinib (Sprycel) for chronic myeloid leukaemia; and if he will make a statement. [147413]

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to refer Dasatinib, a drug for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia, to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to seek its approval. [147933]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* Dasatinib (Sprycel) is licensed for the treatment of adults with chronic, accelerated or blast phase chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy including imatinib. Dasatinib is also licensed for the treatment of adults with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and lymphoid blast CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy. The Department has no plans to refer Dasatinib to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for appraisal at this time but the drug may be considered for referral to NICE in the future.

Medical Treatments: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is being provided for research into photodynamic therapy. [148036]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds research to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service and through its health technology assessment programme is investing £1 million in a study to gather evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of photodynamic therapy for people with age-related macular degeneration.

In addition, two of the NIHR biomedical research centres (BRCs) established this year will be undertaking research concerned with the use of photodynamic therapy. At the University College London hospitals BRC the research will form part of a gastroenterology and hepatology research theme to which £5 million has been allocated over five years. At the Moorfields Eye hospital BRC it will be part of programme of research to do with age-related macular degeneration to which £2.9 million has been allocated over five years.

The Department is also providing NHS support for two trials of photodynamic therapy for biliary tract cancers through the NIHR Cancer Research Network, and for two trials of photodynamic therapy for cancer of the gullet (oesophagus) through the joint Cancer Research UK/NIHR Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre at University College Hospital London.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies though which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC has in the last six years funded two studies relating to photodynamic therapy at a total cost of £300,000.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter of 29 May from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent (ref PO213931). [147727]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The reply was sent on 5 July 2007.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Meat

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reports he has received of MRSA infection in UK-produced meat; [147992]

(2) what tests are carried out on imported meat to identify MRSA infection; [147993]

(3) what tests are carried out on UK-produced meat to identify MRSA infection. [147994]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has received no reports of incidents of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) contamination in United Kingdom produced meat. No testing for *Staphylococcus aureus* is required in UK slaughterhouses nor in other European

Union slaughterhouses. Meat from third countries is subject to import controls, but is not routinely tested for *Staphylococcus aureus*.

FSA and other organisations provide advice on personal hygiene and proper handling, storage and cooking of meat to minimise contamination by micro-organisms. Proper cooking will destroy MRSA.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems are in place for testing meat imported from outside the EU for MRSA contamination. [148436]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 July 2007]*: Meat from outside the European Union is subject to import controls, but is not routinely tested for *Staphylococcus aureus*.

All meat from outside the EU imported into the United Kingdom comes from establishments that are under veterinary control and must meet EU standards. On arrival at border inspection posts in the UK the meat is subject to checks by veterinary inspectors. All consignments undergo 100 per cent. documentation and identification checks and a prescribed level of physical checks.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the list of developing countries from which recruitment into the NHS is prohibited applies in the recruitment of *(a)* doctors in training and *(b)* other doctors. [148154]

Ann Keen: The code of practice for the international recruitment of healthcare professionals includes a list of developing countries from which the national health service should not undertake active recruitment. The list, overseen by NHS Employers, applies to all health professionals.

The code of practice cannot, and does not seek to, prevent individuals from developing countries from speculatively seeking work in the NHS.

NHS: Reviews

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a list of the members of the NHS review group led by Professor Sir Ara Darzi. [148615]

Ann Keen: The terms of reference for the review are available in the Library and we will set out more detail on the work of the review in due course.

Nutrition: Obesity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the proposal in the European Commission's White Paper on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity to reformulate food and drink products to combat obesity; and if he will make a statement. [148035]

Dawn Primarolo: We welcome the publication of the Commission's White Paper, which outlines an European Union approach to address the incidence of overweight and obesity in the region. The White Paper's proposals on reformulation complement work already underway in the United Kingdom by the Food Standards Agency to address levels of saturated fat, total fat and added sugars in a range of foods as part of the Agency's saturated fat and energy intake programme.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and guidance he has issued on the consumption of different foods and drinks to tackle obesity. [148045]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of a healthy lifestyle, including being physically active, the Government advise that a healthy balanced diet is one that is rich in fruit and vegetables (at least five portions every day), starchy foods, such as potatoes, rice, bread, moderate amounts of meat and dairy products and low in foods that contain large amounts of fat, sugar and salt. A healthy balanced diet is low in fat, particularly saturated fat, salt and added sugars.

The Food Standards Agency has also introduced a front of pack labelling scheme recommended for those types of foods which consumers have said it is difficult to judge the nutritional content. This information can be used at a glance by consumers to help them make informed choices about the nutritional content of foods they purchase when shopping. This will also help consumers to better understand which food products make a positive contribution to a healthy diet and which should be eaten in smaller amounts or less frequently.

Obesity: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of *(a)* fruit juices and *(b)* smoothies in tackling childhood obesity. [148043]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government has not assessed the role of fruit juices or smoothies in tackling childhood obesity.

The Government do, however, provide advice to consumers on the role fruit juices and smoothies can play in a varied, balanced diet. Government advise that fruit juices and smoothies can contribute towards recommended fruit and vegetable consumption, but advises these drinks can be high in sugars.

Pfizer: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of the changes in distribution of Pfizer medicines on NHS patients. [147982]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials in the Department continue to monitor the operation of the new arrangements. No substantial problems have been reported and no corrective action has had to be taken.

Pharmacy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1006-07W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on pharmacy, how many pharmacies *(a)* are registered as prescribers and *(b)*

offer primary care trust-commissioned blood pressure checks. [146490]

Dawn Primarolo: The commissioning of national health service services such as pharmacist prescribing and routine blood pressure checks are matters for primary care trusts to determine. Under the new community pharmacy contractual framework, pharmacists are now providing a wider range of services other than just dispensing medicines. These include the prescribing of medicines and blood pressure checks.

Information from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, shows that at the end of May 2007, in Great Britain, there were 1,189 pharmacist supplementary prescribers and 68 pharmacist independent prescribers.

Information on the number of pharmacists undertaking blood pressure checks is not collected centrally.

Poultry Meat

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to the merits of regulating the addition of *(a)* protein and *(b)* water to chicken meat to provide for (i) limits in each case and (ii) further labelling requirements including in catering establishments. [146962]

Dawn Primarolo: The production and labelling of meat products are regulated in European law. The Food Standards Agency has raised this issue with the European Commission who considered the matter but concluded that current legislation was adequate. European legislation has no limits on added protein or water, however, if these are added, they must be correctly described on the label so as not to mislead consumers.

There are no plans for legislation to require further labelling of added protein or water in chicken products. However, the agency will be consulting shortly on new guidance on the labelling of meat products for food businesses. Part of this guidance is specifically aimed at caterers.

Reproduction: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations in the field of reproductive health are funded by his Department; how much his Department plans to give to each organisation in the next two years; whether account is taken of an organisation's position on abortion when allocating public funds; and if he will make a statement. [148068]

Dawn Primarolo: The following voluntary and community organisations working in the field of reproductive health receive funding from the Department of Health:

£

Organisation	Funding 2007-08	2008-09
Antenatal Results and Choices[1]	20,000	—
Brook Advisory Centres[1]	186,000	100,000
Family Planning Association[1]	1.279 million	—
Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development[1]	30,000	—
Infertility Network UK	103,000	88,000

[1] 2007-08 is the last year in the current Section 64 grant cycle for Antenatal Results and Choices, Brook Advisory Centres, Family Planning Association and the Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development. The Family Planning Association contract for Sexual Health Direct ends in March 2008 and we have yet to consider funding allocations from April 2008.

The Department funds voluntary organisations in England, through individual policy programmes and Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, where organisations' activities support the Department's policy priorities.

Sleeping Pills

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* total number of and *(b)* net ingredient cost of drugs dispensed in the community for the treatment of insomnia was in each year since 1997. [147535]

Dawn Primarolo: Treatment for insomnia is classified in the British National Formulary (BNF) under paragraph 4.1.1. The number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England, together with the net ingredient cost (NIC), are shown in the following table.

The antihistamine promethazine hydrochloride is listed by the BNF as a possible treatment for insomnia but dispensing for this drug is categorised under its use for respiratory conditions and so dispensing figures are given separately in the table. It is not possible to determine what proportion of this use, if any, is for insomnia.

	Items dispensed (BNF 4.1.1) (Thousand)[1]	NIC (BNF 4.1.1) (£000)	Items dispensed (Promethazine) (Thousand)	NIC (Promethazine) (£000)
1997	10,570.6	21,303.4	372.2	485.3
1998	10,619.3	23,137.9	337.8	433.2
1999	10,633.6	25,637.9	284.4	433.2
2000	10,638.5	27,907.5	252.5	401.7
2001	10,697.1	26,698.4	239.4	395.1
2002	10,653.5	27,091.4	229.3	397.6
2003	10,606.1	27,402.2	214.8	373.2
2004	10,474.6	26,782.1	208.5	369.3
2005	10,016.5	23,473.7	209.6	381.5
2006	9,868.1	[1]27,144.2	215.8	418.1

[1] The increase in NIC in spite of a decrease in items between 2005 and 2006 is due to price changes to generic medicines (Category M).

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department altered the design of the no-smoking sign it requires to be placed at the front of every enclosed public space to make it different from that determined by the International Organisation for

Standardisation (ISO); what representations he has received from the ISO on the issue; at what cost the redesigned sign was developed; whether external agencies were involved in its redesign; and if he will make a statement. [147582]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Act 2006 requires smokefree premises to display no-smoking signs. The Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007 set out the requirements for no-smoking signs to be displayed in smokefree premises and vehicles.

In addition to specified wording, no-smoking signs for smokefree premises must also carry a no-smoking symbol which "consists solely of a graphic representation of a single burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle of at least 70 millimetres in diameter with a red bar across it". The regulations are sufficiently flexible to enable businesses to design no-smoking signs that will fit the decor of their premises, as well as to use a no-smoking symbol of their choosing.

The regulations do not specifically require no-smoking signs to carry the International Organization for Standardisation no-smoking symbol. To make such requirement would be overly bureaucratic and create an unnecessary burden on businesses, for example by requiring the replacement of pre-existing signs in smokefree vehicles across the country.

The Department has received no specific representations from the International Organization for Standardization on requirements set out in the Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007, either during the public consultation on smokefree regulations or subsequently.

The no-smoking signs that have been made available via the Department's Smokefree England campaign are compliant with these regulations. The cost for the design of no-smoking signs that have been made available by the Department was provided in the answer given to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire), on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1577-78W. The figure represents the total design costs for signs, including the no-smoking symbol used.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to enforce the prohibition on smoking in public places. [147904]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Department has put a range of measures into place to monitor and evaluate smokefree legislation in England. A programme of Department-sponsored research is in place to monitor the impact of the new law.

Data are also being collected from local authorities on levels of compliance and enforcement actions taken, as well as the number of calls to the Smokefree England compliance line. These data will be routinely published on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Given that smokefree legislation has only been enforced since 1 July 2007, specific assessments on the effectiveness of enforcement are unable to be made at present.

Water: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of dehydration on children of school age; and if he will make a statement. [148039]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not undertaken a specific research project on the effects of dehydration on children of school age. The Government's healthy eating advice is to drink plenty of water.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings Ministers in his Department have held with Deborah Mattinson of Opinion Leader Research in the last 12 months. [147030]

Edward Miliband: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when his Department will respond to the letter dated 4 June from the hon. Member for North Norfolk on guests to Chequers. [148772]

Edward Miliband: A response was sent to the hon. Member on 10 July 2007.

Official Hospitality: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of the event for special advisers held in No. 10 Downing street on 15 June. [147029]

Edward Miliband: There was no cost to the public purse.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what charge Ahmed Belhada is being detained at Guantanamo Bay. [148361]

Dr. Howells: I understand that the hon. Member may be referring to an Algerian national named Mr. Ahmed Belbacha who is detained at Guantanamo Bay. We are not aware that Mr. Belbacha has been charged by the US authorities.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for measures to *(a)* promote human rights and democracy and *(b)* encourage dialogue between parties in conflict in Burma. [147694]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) identifies Burma as a country of concern in our 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights. Our aim is to promote full respect for human rights in Burma, encouraging the rule of law, democracy and good governance, and the freedom of association and speech in accordance with international human rights law. We are at the forefront of international efforts to encourage the military regime to restore democracy and to respect human rights.

We take every opportunity to raise human rights issues with the regime and remind them of their obligations to adhere to international human rights law, most recently when our ambassador in Rangoon met the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister and the Ministers of Planning and Health on 12-13 June. Our embassy in Rangoon is also delivering capacity building assistance through the FCO Global Opportunities Fund in support of these objectives.

We believe the UN has a key role to play in addressing the political and humanitarian challenges in Burma. We shall continue to support the efforts of the UN, including the good offices mandate of the Secretary-General.

Chechnya: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on Chechnya's observance of human rights. [148302]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Annual Report on Human Rights, which was last published in October 2006, sets out the Government's assessment of the situation in Chechnya. We remain deeply concerned by the situation in the republic, which is fragile and vulnerable to human rights violations. We, and EU partners, continue to monitor developments closely. Copies of the 2006 FCO Annual Report on Human Rights are available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148019]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has completed no Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) since 1997. Two PFI projects are under way with a total estimated cost of £381.7 million. The details are:

Global Crossing—Provision of a worldwide telecommunications network for a term of ten years from 10 May 2000. The total estimated cost of this contract is £247.5 million. The present unitary payment charged to the operating cost statement is £24 million per annum; and

Arteos—In respect of the building, operation and maintenance of our Embassy in Berlin for a term of 30 years from 23 June 1998 with an option to extend for a further 30 years. The total estimated costs of the contract over its lifetime to June 2028 is £134.2 million. The current unitary payment is £4.4 million per annum.

Further details on these signed deals are available on HM Treasury's website, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

This list covers unitary charge payments up to 2033-34. Unitary charge payments are projections covering more than the repayment of the capital value of a project. They will frequently include inflation, service provision and major refurbishment. They are also conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor.

The FCO has commissioned no other PFI projects.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has received on the EU food supplements directive; [147240]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential impact of imposing maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements. [147241]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

A number of representations have been received on the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive, highlighting concerns regarding the possibility that the European Commission (EC) intend to propose restrictive daily dose levels for vitamin and mineral supplements and the potential consequent loss of consumer choice.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently carried out an informal consultation on an initial regulatory impact assessment (RIA) that sets out the current position in the United Kingdom with respect to food supplements and seeks information from stakeholders to measure the potential impact in advance of future EC proposals for setting daily dosage levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements. The information will be used to inform the draft RIA, which will then be subject to a formal consultation process. Since we do not yet know what the Commission will propose, the FSA sought information on a wide range of possible options.

The impact assessment will be updated to take account of future Commission papers and a full public consultation will be carried out when the Commission publish proposals. The UK negotiating position on maximum levels will take into account all stakeholder comments.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the holding of a referendum on the proposed EU Constitutional Treaty. [148177]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government

proposed a referendum, is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned".

As my right hon. Friend the then Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair) set out in his statement to Parliament on 25 June, the Reform Treaty will differ fundamentally from the Constitutional Treaty in both form and substance.

The subject of a referendum on the proposed Reform Treaty has been discussed on many occasions, including in Parliamentary debates, questions and evidence sessions. The UK's only ever national referendum was on European Economic Community membership in 1975. The Reform Treaty will be an amending Treaty in the tradition of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice—none of which were subject to a referendum in this country.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the differences are between the original planned EU Constitution in 2005 and the new proposed EU Constitutional Treaty 2007. [148178]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, on which the Government proposed a referendum, is now defunct. The mandate for a Reform Treaty agreed by the European Council states clearly:

"The constitutional concept, which consisted in repealing all existing Treaties and replacing them by a single text called "Constitution", is abandoned".

As my right hon. Friend the then Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair) set out in his statement to Parliament on 25 June, the Reform Treaty will differ fundamentally from the Constitutional Treaty in both form and substance. Among other things, we have ensured that there is nothing in the mandate for the Reform Treaty which will require us to change our existing labour and social legislation. Our common law system and our police and judicial processes will be protected. Our independent foreign and defence policy will be maintained. Our tax and social security system will be protected.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer the letter to his predecessor dated 4 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Omer Farooq. [148369]

Dr. Howells: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent on 9 July.

Robert Mugabe: Summit Conferences

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to *(a)* the Portuguese Government and *(b)* the EU on President Mugabe's attendance at the Lisbon Summit in December 2006. [148006]

Meg Munn: The UK is strongly committed to the EU Africa relationship. We want to see a successful summit that agrees substantive co-operation in areas that really matter for Africa, for Europe and for the UK. We are working with the Portuguese, and other EU colleagues, towards this and have underlined to them our view that President Mugabe's attendance would detract from this important agenda. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stressed this most recently with his Dutch colleague on 5 July and will do so in discussions with other EU Foreign Ministers, including the Portuguese, in coming weeks. This was also raised during my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's discussions with the Portuguese Prime Minister on 9 July.

Succession: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are at EU level to provide a unified approach to laws on succession and wills, with particular reference to proposals emanating from the Commission's Green Paper thereon; and if he will make a statement. [148242]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In 2004 the Council of the European Union invited the European Commission to prepare a Green Paper on the conflict of laws in matters of succession and related issues. The Green Paper was published in 2005 and suggested there was a need for the harmonisation of private international law rules in the field of succession.

The UK response to the Green Paper made clear that although the Government support, in principle, the development of proposals to help people with inheritance matters that have a cross-border element, it has serious concerns about the proposals that might emerge from the Commission's Green Paper. The UK detailed response is available on the EU website:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/successions/contributions/contibution_uk_en.pdf

The Commission is now considering the responses to the Green Paper and is expected to publish a draft proposal for a regulation in late 2007 or early 2008.

Sudan: Human Rights

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Council recommendations published following the Group of Experts report on Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [148294]

Meg Munn: We strongly support the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) work on improving human rights in Darfur.

The HRC high-level assessment mission, which examined the situation in Darfur in February, recommended a review of the implementation of existing human rights recommendations from different parts of the UN system. We actively supported the German EU Presidency in pushing for the establishment of the Darfur Implementation

Mechanism in March. This group of UN Special Rapporteurs is pressing the Government of Sudan for better and faster implementation of human rights recommendations in Sudan. We expect an interim report in September, with a full report to follow in November/December.

We are pressing the Government of Sudan to comply fully with the report's recommendations.

Turkey: Iraq

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of recent Turkish army movements along that country's border with Iraq. [148303]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are aware of counter-terrorist operations by the Turkish security forces close to Turkey's border with northern Iraq. This is in response to a series of recent attacks by the Kurdish separatist group, the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (PKK) against military and civilian targets in Turkey which have caused a significant number of fatalities.

We utterly condemn the attacks carried out by the PKK, as we do all acts of terrorism. We encourage Turkey to engage with the Iraqi Government, and the Kurdish regional government, to address the PKK presence in northern Iraq and we welcome the ongoing trilateral co-operation between Turkey, Iraq and the US.

Zimbabwe: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of UK military action against Zimbabwe. [148309]

Meg Munn: We believe that change by peaceful means is still the best approach to resolving the current crisis. Zimbabwe desperately needs policy reform to reverse its current decline. We are supporting the efforts of all those working for democratic change in Zimbabwe.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of deaths reported to coroners resulted in an order for a post-mortem examination in each year since 1997, broken down by coroner's region; and if he will make a statement; [148245]

(2) how many and what proportion of deaths reported to coroners were the subject of an inquest in *(a)* each coroner's region and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [148256]

Bridget Prentice: Because of the comprehensive nature of these data, the information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of deaths were reported to a coroner in each year since 1997, broken down by coroner's region; and if he will make a statement. [148247]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the number of registered deaths is only available for coroners' districts where these coincide exactly with one or more local or unitary authorities. Coroners' district boundaries are not always consistent with those of local authorities, and therefore it is not possible to provide this information for all such districts. However, information on the number of registered deaths of residents and the number of deaths reported to coroners in England and Wales for all years from 1997 to 2006, aggregated to approximately county level, is in the process of being collated by my officials and I will write to the hon. Member shortly with this information.

Coroners: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on coroners' services in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each coroner's region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [148595]

Bridget Prentice: Funding for the coroner service in England and Wales is provided by local authorities and police authorities, in those areas where the police employ coroners officers and administrative staff. Data are not collected on the total spend on the coroner service by coroner jurisdiction.

In 2003 Tom Luce's 'Fundamental Review of Death Certification and Investigation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland' (Cm 5831) estimated the total spend on the coroner system in England and Wales to be £71.4 million. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) does publish data on local authority spend by coroner jurisdiction but we cannot guarantee the accuracy of that information.

Coroners: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many coroner's regions were allocated part-time coroners in each year since 1997; how many were without a fully qualified coroner for part of the period between 1997 and 2007; and if he will make a statement; [148246]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time coroners there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [148596]

Bridget Prentice: The ratio of part-time to full-time coroners for the years between 1997 and 2004 is currently being gathered and I will write to the hon. Lady shortly. The Coroners' Society annual report lists 89 part-time coroners and 28 full-time coroners in 2005 and 86 part-time coroners and 32 full-time coroners in 2006. There are currently 79 part-time coroners and 32 full-time coroners. An individual has to be qualified either as a lawyer or doctor for five years to serve as a coroner, deputy coroner or assistant deputy coroner.

Courts: Birmingham

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants who have appeared before *(a)* a Crown court and *(b)* the magistrates' courts in Birmingham since 1 May 2007 have been remanded overnight in court cells in London; how many were (i) adult males, (ii) adult females, (iii) males between 18 and 21 years and (iv) females between 18 and 21 years; where those defendants were remanded; when they were remanded; on how many occasions defendants were remanded; and whether those so remanded had access to drug, physical and mental health staff, showers and a change of clothing before reappearing in court each following day. [148297]

Mr. Hanson: No defendants have been remanded from Birmingham Crown or magistrates courts to court cells in London. However, on 11 June 2007, five sentenced adult male prisoners and one sentenced young adult male prisoner were sent from Birmingham Crown court and Birmingham magistrates court to be held in cells at West London magistrates court.

In accordance with the agreed protocol, no female or juvenile prisoners have been held overnight in court cells.

Electoral Register: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 910W, on the electoral register: Barnet, when the canvassing took place; how many people were registered *(a)* before and *(b)* after the canvassing; and if he will make a statement. [148381]

Bridget Prentice: I understand that in addition to the annual canvass the electoral registration officer at Barnet council commenced a personal canvass of Grahame Park, Colindale on 18 June 2007. Before commencing this canvass, the number of registered electors was 4,828. As of the 5 July 2007, the number of new electors that will be added and published in the August register stands at 182. Canvassers will continue to make house to house enquiries until the 10 July 2007.

Huntercombe Young Offender Institution

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to Question 147127, on the Huntercombe Young Offender Institution, how the use of PAVA is regulated; what restrictions there are on the use of PAVA; what criteria are taken into account in deciding to use PAVA; who is authorised to make decisions on the use of PAVA; whether exposure to PAVA has lasting physical effects; and if he will make a statement. [148071]

Mr. Hanson: PAVA is an advanced incapacitant spray. Its use is limited to serious incidents such as hostage taking. Its use may only be authorised by the Gold Commander managing the incident and only specially trained national control and restraint staff may use it. Only those who are specifically trained in its use are authorised to use it. In general it will not be authorised if:

dealing with prisoners at height (because of the risk of injury/falling);

dealing with juvenile prisoners and other prisoners held in juvenile units or secure training centres;

there is reason to believe the intended target has/could develop breathing difficulties following the use of PAVA (e.g. if asthmatic);

a member of healthcare staff is not available on site at the incident to give medical care to any affected by the spray; and

the incident takes place in a privately run prison or immigration removal centres

Exceptions may be made if lives are in danger. Department of Health approval was sought for its use and it has no long term medical effects.

Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales: Secondment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the staff seconded from his Department to the Judicial Appointments Commission are of *(a)* senior leadership, *(b)* policy and *(c)* administrative support grades; whether staff who have been seconded to the Judicial Appointments Commission from his Department have maintained the same line management relationships with their existing managers; whether staff who have been seconded to the Judicial Appointments Commission from his Department may receive performance-related bonuses; what assessment he has made of the performance of the Judicial Appointments Commission; and if he will make a statement. [147977]

Mr. Straw: The Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) has a complement of 94 staff of which 17 members are temporary contractors on short-term contracts and 77 were secondees from the Civil Service. 70 are seconded from the Ministry of Justice (of these, 40 previously worked from the Lord Chancellor in this area, and 30 have not previously worked in this area); the remaining seven are seconded from other Government departments. In response to a request from the Constitutional Affairs Committee, information about staff seconded to the Judicial Appointments Commission is currently being collated and will be provided by the Chief Executive of the Commission to the Committee on 16 July.

I will place a copy in the Libraries of the House and send a copy to my right hon. Friend. This should answer all sections of this question but if not I should of course be happy to provide my right hon. Friend with as much additional information as is available.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made to this House on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 48WS announcing the publication of the Commission's first annual report.

Pre-nuptial Agreements

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his Department's policy is on pre-nuptial agreements; and what representations his Department has received from the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford on this issue; [148102]

(2) whether his Department has made any assessment of the impact of pre-nuptial agreements on *(a)* low income and *(b)* vulnerable individuals. [148103]

Bridget Prentice: Couples are free to make pre-nuptial agreements and apply them in the event of relationship breakdown. In those circumstances the courts will only intervene in their financial affairs if one party wishes to dispute that agreement. Even if the parties dispute it, an agreement is a factor taken into account in any ancillary relief proceedings relating to the couple who made the agreement.

The welfare of any child is the court's first consideration when resolving a couple's financial affairs. Enforcement of prenuptial contracts regardless of their content would displace that principle. An agreement which is very old, or one which does not deal with the couple's current circumstances, or on which the parties had not taken independent legal advice, could be unfair. The agreement might not have considered changes in circumstances, such as the illness of one of the parties, or the birth of children, which would change the parties' earning capacity.

This Ministry has not received any representations from the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford on this issue to date.

The Ministry has not undertaken research on the impact of pre-nuptial agreements on parties with low incomes and vulnerable individuals. However, we believe that pre-nuptial agreements are most often used by wealthier couples. We think that pre-nuptial agreements could never fully oust the jurisdiction of the court without putting vulnerable parties and children at risk.

Prisoners: Facilities

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 912-3W, on prisoners: facilities, what sanitary facilities exist within the custody area of court cells. [147975]

Mr. Hanson: Wash basin and toilet facilities are available within court custody areas. Showers are not generally available at most court sites.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Qualifications

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* O levels, *(b)* A levels, *(c)* bachelor's degrees, *(d)* apprenticeship qualifications and *(e)* higher degrees are held by members of the Cabinet. [148219]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally. However, biographical information is available in "Dod's Parliamentary Companion".

Department for Education and Skills: Reorganisation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what the projected cost is of re-organising the Department for Education and Skills. [148212]

Anne Milton: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost of the machinery of government changes he has made. [148616]

The Prime Minister: The cost of machinery of Government changes will be met by relevant Departments within existing departmental budgets.

Departments: Buildings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to refurbish, extend or renovate the Downing Street complex. [146872]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) gave him on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2198-99W.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what changes have been made to the staff structure at No. 10 Downing Street since 27 June; [148861]

(2) what new positions have been created in No. 10 Downing Street since 27 June 2007. [148863]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 945W.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the No. 10 Downing Street entertainments budget *(a)* was in July and August 2006 and *(b)* is in July and August 2007. [148864]

The Prime Minister: Details of the entertainment costs for 2006-07 will be published shortly. Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in the normal way after the end of the financial year.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the remit of his adviser on political press issues. [148862]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departments: Press Conferences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he will hold monthly press conferences and appear before the Liaison Committee at least twice a year. [148718]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 27 June 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12162.asp), and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Lord Laidlaw: Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has responded to the House of Lords Appointments Commission's concerns about the UK tax status of Lord Laidlaw; and if he will make a statement. [148769]

The Prime Minister: The House of Lords Appointments Commission set out their position in their annual report 2006-07, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether the Government has agreed to provide funding for the *(a)* salary, *(b)* administrative support costs, *(c)* travel costs and *(d)* security costs of the former Prime Minister in his new role as Middle East envoy in 2007-08; [147800]

(2) how much funding has been pledged by *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the European Union, *(c)* the United States and *(d)* Russia for the (i) salary, (ii) administrative support costs, (iii) travel costs and (iv) security costs of the former Prime Minister in his new role as Middle East envoy in 2007-08. [147801]

The Prime Minister: The Government welcome my predecessor's appointment as the Quartet's Middle East Representative. As Prime Minister, he demonstrated his commitment, over the years, to advancing the peace process. Details of his role and his team, together with potential funding, are being worked out in discussion with international partners. We are currently considering how we can best support that work.

Petitions: Electronic Government

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Prime Minister what future plans he has for e-petitions on his Office's website. [148578]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 27 June 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12162.asp) and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Regional Government: Ministerial Duties

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the responsibilities are of the newly appointed regional Ministers; and which public bodies are accountable to them; [148413]

(2) to whom the newly appointed regional Ministers report; and what *(a)* personnel and *(b)* financial resources are available to them to undertake their responsibilities; [148414]

(3) what powers the newly appointed regional ministers have in relation to *(a)* Government regional offices, *(b)* regional assemblies and *(c)* regional development agencies. [148415]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Command Paper "The Governance of Britain" (Cm 7170) published on Tuesday 3 July 2007. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 July 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many applications for installing a telecommunications mast were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years; [148007]

(2) how many telecommunications masts were installed in each London borough in each of the last five years; [148008]

(3) how many telecommunications masts were given permission to be installed in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [148009]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will amend national planning guidance on mobile telephone masts to allow concerns over health issues to be taken into account by local planning authorities; [148591]

(2) what the timetable is for the revision of Planning Policy Guidance 8; and whether she intends to issue a consultation paper on its revision. [148592]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1524W. We intend to review the permitted development rights in relation Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. Following the completion of this review we will consider what, if any, changes might be necessary to Government Planning Policy in relation to telecommunications.

We have not established our timetable for reviewing Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 on Telecommunications. We will consult on any substantive changes to this policy.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require all mobile telephone companies to apply for full planning permission for installation of mobile telephone masts. [148593]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1524W. We intend to review the permitted development rights in relation to Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. The aim of the review is to ensure that permitted development rights remain fit for purpose, particularly in the light of technological advances in telecommunications. I cannot prejudge the outcome of that review, but we will consult on any substantive proposals for change arising from it.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144940]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil Service Management Code', the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers'.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146993]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of non-pensionable bonuses for each of the last three years and the costs of these are tabulated as follows. These figures refer to bonuses paid under the terms of the annual pay settlements for staff working in the Department and its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Bonuses are paid to staff who exceed against their objectives for the year.

The Department also operates a Special Bonus Scheme to reward exceptional performance over a limited period in particularly demanding tasks or situations, but records are not available to show the number of payments made under this scheme.

In recent years the proportion of senior civil service pay which is linked to performance has been increased.

	Number of bonuses	*Cost of bonuses (£)*
2006	561	838,250
2005	596	605,750
2004	435	445, 000

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146930]

Mr. Iain Wright: On the basis of outcomes agreed and recorded to date a total of 14 staff in the Department did not meet their objectives for the year 2006-07.

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives she has considered to encourage staff in her Department to use public transport. [148796]

Mr. Iain Wright: The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work via public transport. Use of public transport is also encouraged by limited car parking, flexible working, the use of public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct.

Fire Services: Standards

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department has issued to local authorities on the performance of fire services. [148982]

Mr. Dhanda: The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the priorities and objectives for all fire and rescue authorities in England, The framework is a statutory guidance document which is laid before Parliament and the current framework is for 2006-08. Within the framework we provide details of any targets set for fire and rescue authorities and for local authorities where they have a fire function e.g. county fire and rescue authorities. Since April 2005 the Government have had a public service agreement target which is:

"By 2010, reduce the number of accidental fire related deaths in the home by 20 per cent. and the number of deliberate fires by 10 per cent."

Fire and rescue authorities have largely been responsible for delivering this target and the reduction in fire deaths and deliberate fires has already been achieved but this performance must be sustained until 2010 to meet the target in full. Fire and rescue authorities also have an efficiency target to deliver which commenced in April 2005 of £105 million of cashable efficiency savings by 2007-08. Again, fire and rescue authorities are on track to deliver this efficiency target. Further information on these targets and other priorities for the fire and rescue service can be found within the national framework document.

Housing: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets for building homes Bournemouth borough council is expected to meet; and by when. [147949]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Structure Plan, adopted in 2001, sets out an average figure for new housing delivery in Bournemouth of 523 dwellings per annum up to 2011.

The draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy, which recently completed its examination in public, states a range for 2006-26 of between 680 and 780 dwellings per annum.

Housing: Disadvantaged

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funds were spent on the Supporting People strategy in each year since its inception. [147376]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme is administered and delivered locally by 150 top tier local authorities.

The following table details the amount spent on Supporting People services since 2003, as reported to the Department by local authorities.

	£
2003-04	1,759,796,581
2004-05	1,752,082,661
2005-06	1,688,430,624

Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of affordable home completions in each of the last five years for which records are available were sold for *(a)* less than (i) £40,000, (ii) £50,000, (iii) £60,000, (iv) £70,000, (v) £80,000, (vi) £90,000, (vii) £100,000, (viii) £110,000, (ix) £120,000 and *(b)* more than £120,000; and what the figures were in each year in each case for the South West. [148252]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on affordable dwelling sales is not available centrally in the format requested. However, information recorded by registered social landlords on the proportion of all their affordable dwellings sold at a discounted sale price and the sale of equity shares of shared ownership dwellings and open market properties with the help of an equity loan to improve affordability is given for England in the following table 1 and for South West in table 2.

The information in the tables reflects the fact that the majority of shared equity purchasers are buying in London and the South East. However, the number of shared ownership and equity loans completions per annum in the South West has nearly doubled over the last five years.

Table 1: Proportion of RSL dwellings sold in England by year and sale price[1]

Percentage

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[2]*
<£40,000	52	48	42	26	22
£40,000 to £49,999	9	6	6	5	5
£50,000 to £59,999	8	7	7	7	10
£60,000 to £69,999	7	7	8	10	14
£70,000 to £79,999	6	6	7	10	12
£80,000 to £89,999	5	5	6	9	10

Table 1: Proportion of RSL dwellings sold in England by year and sale price[1]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Percentage 2006-07[2]
£90,000 to £89,999	3	6	6	8	7
£100,000 to £109,999	3	4	4	6	4
£110,000 to £119,999	1	4	3	4	4
>=£120,000	2	6	8	11	7
Unknown price	4	1	1	2	6

[1] Discounted sale price for complete dwelling sales and equity share for shared ownership dwelling and equity loan sales.
[2] Provisional
Source:
Housing Corporation CORE Sales returns

Table 2: Proportion of RSL dwellings sold in South West by year and sale price[1]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[2]
<£40,000	48	26	19	9	6
£40,000 to £49,999	16	12	8	6	7
£50,000 to £59,999	12	18	13	14	17
£60,000 to £69,999	8	16	17	19	21
£70,000 to £79,999	5	10	12	17	19
£80,000 to £89,999	3	7	10	12	11
£90,000 to £89,999	2	5	8	8	9
£100,000 to £109,999	1	3	6	5	5
£110,000 to £119,999	0	2	3	3	2
>=£120,000	0	2	4	4	3
Unknown price	4	1	0	2	2

[1] Discounted sale price for complete dwelling sales and equity share for shared ownership dwelling and equity loan sales.
[2] Provisional
Source:
Housing Corporation CORE Sales returns

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the definition of affordable housing takes account of *(a)* average local wages, *(b)* geographical location and *(c)* whether the house is to be (i) bought outright, (ii) bought with shared equity and (iii) rented. [148445]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Annex B to "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing" defines affordable housing as housing sold or rented at below market rates, to eligible groups, where there is provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households. The definition includes that affordable housing

> "should meet the needs of eligible households, including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices".

The definition comprises social rented housing and intermediate housing (shared equity products, other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent).

Local Government: Equal Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total back pay liability for all expected years is in respect of each local authority that has applied for a capitalisation direction in respect of equal pay; and how much each authority is seeking to have capitalised. [149115]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1430W.

Rates and Rating: Aerials

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile telephone masts were on the Valuation Office Agency's ratings list in the areas of *(a)* Guildford borough council and *(b)* Waverley borough council (i) in 2000 and (ii) at the most recent date for which the information is available. [148594]

Mr. Iain Wright: Statutory Instrument (SI) No 2421 changed the basis for assessing masts for rating purposes. Therefore, to provide an answer on a consistent basis, the following dates have been used.

As at 31 March 2003, the Rating List included 79 'Communication Masts' in Guildford borough council and 34 in Waverley borough council. As at 31 March 2007, the corresponding numbers were 120 for Guildford and 32 for Waverley. Not all 'Communication Masts' are mobile telephone masts; the Valuation Office Agency's database does not distinguish between mobile telephone masts and those used for other purposes.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure was on armed forces accommodation in each year since 1997. [148228]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W, and my letter of 20 March 2007, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* psychologists, *(b)* psychiatrists, *(c)* mental health nurses and *(d)* occupational therapists each service employed in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [148273]

Derek Twigg: Psychologists and occupational therapists are not employed in the armed forces. The following tables list the numbers of consultant psychiatrists and mental health nurses employed in each service on 1 April 2006 and 1 April 2007.

	Manning
Consultant psychiatrists	
RN	
2006	2
2007	2
Army	
2006	6
2007	6
RAF	
2006	5
2007	5
Mental health nurses	
RN	
2006	21
2007	21
Army	
2006	43
2007	41
RAF	
2006	33
2007	36

Source:
DMSD quarterly manning return 1 April 2006/1 April 2007

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget was provided to each of the armed forces for recruitment purposes in each year since 1992. [147491]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* Information for all years since 1992 is not held centrally in the format requested. Nevertheless, the known recruitment budgets for the Army and RAF for all years since 1998-99 are as follows:

	£ million	
	Army	*RAF*
1998-99	49.5	27.1
1999-2000	53.0	27.6
2000-01	53.8	26.3
2001-02	65.4	28.6
2002-03	64.9	29.1
2003-04	70.8	n/a
2004-05	76.1	n/a
2005-06	89.1	n/a
2006-07	86.9	n/a

In 2003, the RAF's recruitment budget was merged with that for Initial Officer Training and cannot be separated out.

I will write to the hon. Member with the information for the Naval Service annual recruiting budget and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Copthorne Barracks

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs of Copthorne Barracks in Shrewsbury were in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [147663]

Derek Twigg: The approximate infrastructure running costs of Copthorne Barracks in each of the last three financial years were as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	1.5
2005-06	1.9
2006-07	1.1

The introduction of Regional Prime Contracting in 2006-07 altered the way in which infrastructure costs are accounted for, in that not all maintenance costs can now be attributed to a particular site. The figure for 2006-07 is not therefore directly comparable to the figures for previous years.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146339]

Derek Twigg: Summaries of MOD expenditure on external assistance (which includes management consultants and other external consultants and advisers) are available in the Library of the House for the years 1995-96 to 2005-06.

Figures for financial year 2006-07 will be placed in the Library before summer recess.

The information on which consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million is not held centrally in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on organisations, including management consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by my Department in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. However, these figures do not differentiate between consultancy spend and non-consultancy expenditure.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147529]

Derek Twigg: Approximately 2,200 members of the Civil Service Pension arrangements in the Ministry of Defence (2.7 per cent. of the total Civil Service Pension schemes members employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension. The Defence Intranet also provides staff with information on how to boost their pension and an annual office notice is issued to remind staff of the opportunity to have non-consolidated pay or bonuses paid into an additional voluntary contributions fund.

Explosions: Noise

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints about noise caused by explosions at Shoeburyness were received from residents living in *(a)* Maldon District, *(b)* Chelmsford Borough, *(c)* Rochford District, *(d)* Colchester Borough, *(e)* Tendring District, *(f)* Southend on Sea, *(g)* Castlepoint District and *(h)* Kent in each year since 1995. [148150]

Derek Twigg: The number of complaints received by the Ministry of Defence about noise caused by explosions, demolition and gunfire at Shoeburyness in each year since 1995 is set out as follows:

District	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Maldon	56	91	23	49	58	48	51	50	19	8	4	4	7
Chelmsford	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Rochford	60	48	45	31	86	48	74	16	2	0	0	0	3
Colchester	12	44	5	20	23	38	22	14	13	3	3	10	0
Tendring	107	206	79	129	222	322	239	154	127	56	110	87	7
Southend	33	109	30	65	52	48	35	25	3	6	2	3	1
Castlepoint	2	1	6	5	10	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
Kent	360	155	91	335	543	333	477	217	48	75	158	112	30
Total	635	656	279	634	995	838	901	476	216	148	277	216	48

[1] Year to 4 July 2007.

Figures up to the end of 2005 are based solely on telephone complaints to a dedicated helpline. Those for 2006 and 2007 are from all sources of complaints.

Housing: Telephone Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many calls received by Modern Housing Solutions were subsequently passed to Transco in each of the last 12 months. [147938]

Derek Twigg: The number of calls received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) that were passed to Transco is as follows:

Month	*Number*
2006	
July	2
August	7
September	4
October	4
November	6
December	3
2007	
January	3
February	8
March	7
April	7
May	6
June	5
Total	62

Military Bases: Europe

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what British military bases there are on the continent of Europe. [147490]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The following table lists all of the main Establishments where the Ministry of Defence has a land ownership interest in (either freehold or long leasehold) on the continent of Europe.

Establishment name	*Country*
Akrotiri Air Base	Cyprus
Dhekelia Garrison	Cyprus
Episkopi Garrison	Cyprus
Ayios Nikolaos	Cyprus
Troodos	Cyprus
Gibraltar Garrison	Gibraltar
Gutersloh Garrison	Germany
Hohne Garrison	Germany
Osnabruck Garrison	Germany
Paderborn Garrison	Germany
Rheindahlen Garrison	Germany

Military Bases: Wales

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on the discussions it has had with *(a)* business, *(b)* local government and *(c)* academic leaders in South Wales

on future plans for MoD St. Athan; and which organisations have taken part in such discussions; [147273]

(2) what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on discussions it has had with elected representatives in South Wales about future plans for MoD St. Athan; and who took part in those discussions; [147274]

(3) what information he has received from the Defence Training Review preferred bidder on discussions it has had with local organisations and community groups in the Vale of Glamorgan on the future plans for MoD St. Athan; and which organisations and groups were involved in those discussions. [147279]

Derek Twigg: Metrix UK meets regularly with members of the Welsh Assembly Government, Community Councils (Llantwit Major, St. Athan, Llanmaes, Llandow, St. Bride's, Ewenny, Wick, Llangan and St. Donat), local (South Wales) business leaders, and leaders of all the main parties represented in the National Assembly.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the principal surface access routes to MoD St. Athan will be *(a)* during and *(b)* after the construction of the new military training academy. [147280]

Derek Twigg: Negotiations are under way between the Welsh Assembly Government, MOD and Metrix to formulate an agreement which will include access arrangements for the Aerospace Business Park and the proposed Defence Training Academy.

Veterans Day

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost was of the events of Veterans Day 2007. [148237]

Derek Twigg: We are not able to calculate the total costs of events to mark Veterans Day 2007 as many of these are borne by event organisers and are not collected by the Department. The MOD committed approximately £470,000 to such events from its veterans budget. However, this figure does not include the costs of participation by armed forces units, such as military bands, in events organised to celebrate the country's veterans; these costs cannot be separately identified but the involvement of such units has not been large scale.

War Pensions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cash *(a)* provision and *(b)* outturn was for the (i) War Pensions Benefits Programme, (ii) War Pensions Benefits Programme—Far Eastern Prisoners of War and (iii) War Pensions Benefits Programme costs—British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association request for resources subheads in each financial year since 1997. [146961]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not measure financial performance in cash terms. The nearest approximation is 'near cash' which comprises cash expenditure and adjustments relating to accrued and pre-paid expenditure. Details relating to the financial years from 1997 to 2002 are not available to the Ministry of Defence as responsibility for reporting financial performance was only transferred in 2002. Prior to this the financial reporting was the responsibility of the Department for Social Security, now the Department for Work and Pensions. The near cash provision for total war pensions expenditure for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 was:

	£
2002-03	1,186,720,000
2003-04	1,158,005,000
2004-05	1,161,221,000
2005-06	1,072,972,000
2006-07	1,047,661,000

The near cash outturn for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 was:

£

	(i) War pensions costs	*(ii) Far eastern prisoners of war costs*	*(iii) British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's costs*	*Total war pension expenditure*
2002-03	1,161,995,058	4,270,000	n/a	1,166,265,058
2003-04	1,113,557,403	3,210,000	3,000	1,116,770,403
2004-05	1,100,266,108	9,810,000	7,000	1,110,083,108
2005-06	1,065,402,752	3,730,000	3,000	1,069,135,752
2006-07	1,035,083,980	3,490,000	0	1,038,573,980

Costs relating to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association were not separately recorded until 2003-04.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local flood protection and prevention schemes, for which cost benefit analysis has been undertaken, were cancelled or postponed in each of the last five years; and what the reasons for cancellation and postponement were in each case. [147543]

Mr. Woolas: Operating authorities (OAs), that is, the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards, are required to produce annual Medium Term Plans (MTPs) setting out their proposed flood protection and prevention schemes for the following three years. Each project will include some form of cost benefit analysis and this will form part of the calculation of the priority score for the scheme. A fully detailed cost benefit analysis is only likely to have been undertaken when a scheme comes forward for final approval either internally in the Environment Agency or, historically, by DEFRA.

MTPs contain a mixture of schemes, some are well advanced and ready to proceed and others are in the

early stages of design. There are many more schemes awaiting funding than are able to be afforded in any one year. The list of schemes in the MTP will be added to as new ones are identified by OAs and may displace others with lower priority scores. There are many schemes in the MTP for which a need can be defined but which have a very low priority score. These are unlikely to receive funding for many years, if at all, but are nevertheless promoted by the OA. These should not be regarded as "cancelled or postponed" because they have never received funding approval and, for this reason, the information is not available in the form requested.

Floods: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to improve the flood defence system in East Lancashire. [148936]

Mr. Woolas: I am advised by the Environment Agency that the Ribble Catchment Flood Management Plan, which will identify the high level sustainable policies for future flood risk management within the catchment over the next 50 to 100 years, is now in its final stages of preparation. The Burnley, Nelson and Colne and the Darwen (including Blackburn) Flood Risk Management Strategies are currently being developed to identify specific scheme needs within those sub-catchments.

The Barrowford Flood Alleviation Scheme has recently been completed. Croasdale Brook, Slaidburn, Flood Alleviation Scheme has recently been completed. Walverden Water and Hendon Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme has been approved and is awaiting funding allocation. Investigations are in progress to identify potential flood risk protection measures at Bolton-by-Bowland and Sawley.

Detailed hydraulic modelling has been completed on Mearley Brook at Clitheroe, and flood risk mapping is being finalised for the area. New Flood Warning Areas continue to be introduced in the highest risk areas such as the River Hyndburn at Accrington, River Calder at Padiham and Green Brook at Padiham. Existing Flood Warning services are also being improved on a continual basis.

The Environment Agency continues to maintain and invest to prevent deterioration of assets in East Lancashire. 97 per cent. of defences are currently in a good condition.

Water: EC Action

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for increasing the *(a)* funding and *(b)* staffing of the Catchment Sensitive Farming programme in meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive; and if he will make a statement. [147243]

Mr. Woolas: Resources for catchment sensitive farming will depend on departmental plans currently being considered as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Wood: Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the UK's timber needs are met by imported material. [148125]

Joan Ruddock: In 2005, the latest year for which figures have been published, it was estimated that 52.5 million cubic metres of wood raw material equivalent was imported and 8.6 million cubic metres was produced in the UK.

Exports, including materials produced from both imported and domestically grown timber for use or re-use outside the UK, were 16.5 million cubic metres of wood raw material equivalent, so UK apparent consumption was 44.6 million cubic metres. Imports therefore made up 81 per cent. of apparent consumption.

Around one third of the wood products imported to the UK in 2005 were imported as softwood (round and sawn). A further one third were imported as paper, 15 per cent. were imported as wood based panels and 13 per cent. as pulp. Paper (20 per cent.) and recovered paper (57 per cent.) accounted for the majority of exports of wood products from the UK in 2005.

Wood: Procurement

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the Government's *(a)* domestic and *(b)* imported timber supplies are procured from sustainable sources. [148128]

Joan Ruddock: There are not sufficient current data available from which accurate figures on Government's purchase of sustainably produced timber could be deduced. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is engaged on an exercise designed to identify options for developing a reliable system that all central Departments in England could use to report their timber purchases.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: North West Region

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on bus subsidy in the north-west of England in the last 12 months, broken down by constituency. [147087]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides grants to local transport authorities through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, Rural and Urban Bus Challenge and Kickstart schemes. A total of £7.853 million was paid under these schemes to local authorities in the north-west region in the financial year 2006-07. The Department also provides Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) directly to operators of local bus services. We estimate that BSOG payments to operators in the north-west region total around £55 million annually. In addition, the majority of local authority support for bus services is funded from the Government's unhypothecated Revenue Support Grant and from other sources.

The Department does not hold information in a form that would enable these figures to be broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Databases: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there is a national record of parking areas. [148448]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As far as I am aware, there is no comprehensive and accurate national record of parking areas. However, Transport Direct is creating a database of off-street publicly accessible parking for Great Britain which can be viewed at

www.transportdirect.info.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which her Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148021]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The HM Treasury website provides updated details (on a six monthly basis) of awarded PFI projects overseen by the Department of Transport. The project details include the date of financial close, total capital value and the annual unitary charge payment. This information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasurygov.uk/documents/public-private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

The Treasury website includes unitary charge payments up until 2033-34. The following projects overseen by the Department for Transport involve payments beyond that date:

Docklands Light Railway Woolwich extension

2034-35 estimated unitary charge £12.2 million

A1 Darrington to Dishforth

2034-35 estimated unitary charge £52.2 million

2035-36 estimated unitary charge £53.5 million

Doncaster interchange

2034-35 estimated unitary charge £3.86 million

2035-36 estimated unitary charge £3.86 million

2036-37 estimated unitary charge £3.86 million

2037-38 estimated unitary charge £3.86 million

2038-39 estimated unitary charge £0.965 million

The forecasts of future payments are subject to the performance of the private sector contractor.

The unitary charge payments represent repayments of the capital (sum of the capital spend) of the project and will also frequently include inflation, service provision, capital repayments and major refurbishments.

Railway Stations: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make a statement on progress being made on the development of a railway station at Buckshaw Village, Chorley; [148991]

(2) whether an agreement has been reached with rail operating companies for trains to stop at the proposed railway station at Buckshaw Village, Chorley; and if she will make a statement; [148992]

(3) when she expects work *(a)* to begin and *(b)* to be completed on the construction of the railway station at Buckshaw Village, Chorley. [148993]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a project that is being led by Lancashire county council with Network Rail. I understand that Lancashire county council has yet to finalise the detailed project plan which would provide dates for key milestones, but that it is planning for the station to be operational by 2008 provided the funding is in place.

Railways

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average load factor is, expressed as a percentage of seats occupied, on passenger trains running on the UK rail network. [146294]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department only holds data pertaining to the morning and evening peaks for commuter services in London and the south-east, which is in the following table. It is not possible to disaggregate seats occupied from total capacity as data are not held in this form.

	Total load factor		
Train operator	*In am peak*	*In pm peak*	*Percentage Aggregated peaks*
one	82.0	75.2	78.7
C2C	78.0	72.3	75.3
Chiltern	72.5	61.5	66.9
Southeastern	84.1	67.4	75.9
Stagecoach South West Trains	89.3	70.6	80.0
Southern	82.5	70.8	77.0
First Great Western	90.0	71.5	81.1
First Capital Connect	80.0	74.3	77.1
Silverlink	72.8	65.1	68.9

The table is based on annual counts undertaken by train operators during autumn 2006. Data for other train operators running on the UK rail network are not available.

TREASURY

Crosby Review

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the report of the Crosby review of identity management to be published. [148643]

Andy Burnham: Sir James Crosby has been asked to deliver his report to Ministers by late summer.

Departments: Hotels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on Departments: hotels, if he will set out the figures for 2006-07 for *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* the Debt Management Office, *(c)* the Royal Mint and *(d)* the Office of Government Commerce, including subsistence, as in the answer of 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on departmental expenditure; [147097]

(2) how much was spent by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies on hotel and other privately-provided accommodation (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad for (A) Ministers, (B) staff and (C) others in 2006-07. [147114]

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149057]

Angela Eagle: The available information is presented in the following table. As explained in the answer given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 16 October 2006, in most cases, the bodies' accounting systems do not record accommodation costs separately, so the figures are for subsistence, which includes accommodation and associated allowances for meals. Therefore further analysis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis. Information for the period 2 May 1997 to 31 March 2006 is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2006-07 is currently being compiled and is due to be published shortly.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Department/Agency/NDPB	*Type of Travel*	*2006-07 (£000)*
HM Treasury[1]	UK	98
	Overseas	308
Debt Management Office	UK	3
	Overseas	3
Office of Government Commerce	UK	476
	Overseas	20
OGCbuying solutions[2]	All	284
Valuation Office Agency[3]	All	633
HM Revenue and Customs[4]	UK	14,100
	Overseas	376
Royal Mint[5]	All	401
National Savings and Investments	All	121
Office for National Statistics[6]	UK	713
	Overseas	78
Government Actuary's Department	UK	7
	Overseas	15
Statistics Commission	UK	2
	Overseas	1

[1] Treasury figures include Ministers, staff and other persons.
[2] OGCbuying.solutions figures are for accommodation only, excluding meals, including both UK and overseas accommodation.
[3] The Valuation Office Agency figure represents costs of UK and overseas accommodation only. Figures previously provided for preceding years have included subsistence and other supplementary costs which were unable to be separated except at disproportionate cost. The figure of £525,000 for 2006-07 provided on 20 June was subject to audit adjustments, which have now been agreed.
[4] The HM Revenue and Customs figures are for accommodation only, unlike figures previously reported for earlier years, where the method for recording such expenditure made disaggregating accommodation expenditure from subsistence possible only at disproportionate cost.
[5] The amount for The Royal Mint includes both UK and overseas subsistence.
[6] The Office for National Statistics figures represent accommodation only. Figures previously reported for preceding years included travel and subsistence, as well as accommodation. The method of recording expenditure made disaggregating accommodation possible at disproportionate cost only.

Football Association: World Cup

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions *(a)* he or his predecessor, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* representatives of his Department met the Football Association to discuss an English bid for the 2018 World Cup (i) before the feasibility study by his Department and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport into holding the World Cup in England began and (ii) while the study was in progress; and what such meetings have taken place since the study was completed. [148963]

Andy Burnham: Treasury officials met the Football Association between January 2006 and February 2007 following the announcement that a feasibility study into hosting a football World Cup would be conducted.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Treasury received recommendations from the Audit Commission in 2006 on changes to the resource accounting and budgeting system in the NHS. [147118]

Andy Burnham: The 'Audit Commission Review of the NHS Financial Management and Accounting Regime' was published on 26 July 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance was given to the Department of Health on changes to the resource accounting and budgeting system in NHS trusts in 2006-07. [147119]

Andy Burnham: The Department of Health announced the reversal of RAB deductions and the replacement of cash brokerage with a formal system of loans for NHS trusts on 28 March 2007. This was done in agreement with HM Treasury.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what preparations were made by HM Treasury for the introduction of the resource accounting and budgeting system in the NHS. [147120]

Andy Burnham: The Treasury fully introduced resource accounting and budgeting to Government Departments in 2001 with the Resource Accounting Manual (RAM) and other guidance made available to Departments. HM Treasury also provided resource accounting and budgeting training. The Government Financial Reporting Manual has now replaced the Resource Accounting Manual and is available at:

www.financial-reporting.gov.uk

The Department of Health introduced a version of resource accounting and budgeting to the NHS. Guidance on introduction of RAB was issued to the NHS by the Department of Health in 2000 and consolidated guidance was issued in February 2001.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many university places are funded for in-service courses for civil servants; if he will list the courses so provided; and what the cost is of such courses to the public purse. [148200]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of university places funded for in-service courses for civil servants is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office.

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147593]

Gillian Merron: Payments made to Common Purpose between 2002-03 and 2005-06 can be found in the table as follows.

	£
2002-03	5,523
2003-04	165
2004-05	0
2005-06	0

These payments were made in connection with Cabinet Office staff attending either training programmes or conferences run by Common Purpose.

Details of the outcome of the expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of any payments made to Common Purpose in 2006-07 will be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2007 summer recess.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Office has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148015]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not completed any private finance initiative projects since 1997 and none are currently under way. The National School of Government has one private finance initiative contract in place in relation to its base at Sunningdale Park. Since that came into effect in May 2002 payments totalling £16.924 million have been made to the private sector partner. Future guaranteed payments in respect of the deal until 2017 total £22.650 million. These payments are conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor.

Disadvantaged: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his officials plan to meet frontline staff and key stakeholders in Blackpool as part of his Department's Families at Risk review. [146521]

Gillian Merron: Officials in the Cabinet Office visited Blackpool in April and May this year as part of the Families At Risk review (FARR). They met with a range of frontline staff and key stakeholders from Blackpool council and the Springboard Project.

Government Departments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the title is of each piece of guidance issued to Government Departments by the Cabinet Office since 27 June 2007. [148865]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office provides guidance and assistance to other Government Departments as necessary in carrying out their work. Most of this is of an informal nature between officials and as such it is not possible to provide the information requested.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148789]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not offer its staff in the UK direct incentives to use public transport. However, we have in place policies which contribute to staff using more sustainable methods of transport. We provide an advance of salary to help staff obtain season tickets for home to office travel. We offer interest-free loans for the purchase of bicycles, provide racks, showers and

changing facilities. We also encourage staff to use a range of flexible working arrangements thereby reducing their travelling to and from work. Where public transport is available, the majority of our staff use it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Palestinian Territories

7. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives in the Quartet on the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories. [148664]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 26 June Quartet representatives briefed officials in Jerusalem on the situation in Gaza. Since then we have had regular contact with UN agencies. Food stocks are low but not yet critical. In the West Bank, the situation is stable. On 19 June DFID contributed £1 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross to address the humanitarian situation.

Aid Delivery

8. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to improve the mechanisms for the delivery of aid. [148665]

Mr. Malik: We are committed to deliver aid in ways that maximise the benefits to poor people.

The best aid supports countries' own strategies. We have an action plan to improve the predictability and effectiveness of UK aid and encourage other donors to do likewise. We have announced an Independent Advisory Committee for Development Impact to ensure we learn and apply lessons for aid delivery.

We track the effectiveness of multilateral organisations to inform our funding decisions and drive reform. Working with others, we are assessing options to strengthen the ways in which donors and partner countries hold each other to account.

Palestinian Aid

9. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the role of private sector initiatives as a means of sustaining international aid to the Palestinians. [148666]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A thriving private sector in the West Bank and Gaza will be an indispensable element of a lasting peace. Private sector initiatives will play a critical role once restrictions are eased on the movement of goods and people. We call on all Palestinians to end violence, and on Israel to relax its controls on movement and access, including by implementing the 2005 Movement and Access agreement.

DFID is designing a new programme of support to assist Palestinian businesses become more competitive and better prepared to take advantage of any improvements in movement and access.

Zimbabwe

10. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [148667]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A DFID humanitarian adviser visited Zimbabwe in June 2007 to assess the humanitarian situation and to inform the UK's response. Conditions in the country continue to deteriorate. The recent UN Food and Crop survey indicates that more than 3 million people will require food aid before the next harvest. Hyper-inflation is having a devastating impact on the poorest, particularly in urban areas. AIDS and declining public services are fuelling high mortality rates.

Last year, DFID spent £33 million tackling hunger, vulnerability and HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe. All DFID funding in Zimbabwe goes through UN agencies and NGOs.

Infant Mortality

11. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of health care systems to tackle infant mortality in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [148668]

Mr. Malik: 40 per cent. of the 10.1 million childhood deaths take place within the first 28 days of life. Most infant deaths are preventable through access to basic health services, improved water and sanitation and better nutrition. Improving the health of infants goes hand-in-hand with improving the health of mothers. Levels of infant mortality are reducing in countries like Malawi, Tanzania and Bangladesh where DFID long-term funding is assisting Governments to invest in health workers, increasing access to family planning and skilled birth attendants at delivery, and increasing basic child health services such as immunisation, and treatment for pneumonia and diarrhoeal diseases.

Aid to Africa

12. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve the mechanisms for the delivery of aid to Africa. [148669]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is strongly committed to improving the delivery of aid in Africa. In 2005 we helped secure international agreement for principles to improve the effectiveness of donors' efforts. We have improved predictability of our aid by making multi-year commitments of budget support, for instance in Ghana, Tanzania and Mozambique and have a strong set of controls to manage the risk of misuse of funds, and we seek to strengthen partner Government financial systems.

Global Population Increases

13. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the projected increase in global population on levels of severe poverty; and if he will make a statement. [148670]

Mr. Malik: Rapid population growth, particularly in Africa, will make it harder for countries to achieve the millennium development goals and escape poverty. 99 per cent. of population growth will take place in developing countries and will make it more difficult for countries to maintain and increase investments to keep up with demands for health, education and other basic services. Experience shows that by improving health, education and livelihoods, and promoting gender equality and rights with good sexual and reproductive health information services and supplies, gives people the choice to have fewer children. Delivery of these basic services is central to DFID's work.

HIV and AIDS

14. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance he is giving to sub-Saharan countries to tackle HIV/AIDS; and whether his Department coordinates its actions with the Gates Foundation. [148671]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has committed to spend £1.5 billion to combat HIV and AIDS between 2005 and 2008. Africa will receive much of this through bilateral country programmes, which support HIV prevention, treatment and care services. International agencies such as the Global Fund for AIDS TB and Malaria are also supported.

DFID works closely with the Gates Foundation on global policy, advocacy and support to national AIDS responses across Africa including development of HIV prevention technologies such as microbicides.

Congo

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with non-governmental organisations which operate within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [148662]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is in regular contact with British, international and Congolese NGOs working in DRC to discuss the programmes we fund as well as the broader development context.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there are any plans to review British aid to Ethiopia with a view to enhancing the programme when the treason trials are completed and the civil society activists detained are freed; and if he will make a statement. [148183]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is currently preparing a new country strategy to support implementation of the Ethiopian Government's poverty strategy. The level and focus of DFID support will depend on an assessment of the Ethiopian Government's policies and plans on growth, poverty reduction and governance. We will be reviewing the track record of the Government on poverty reduction, priorities included in the new national plan for growth and poverty reduction, policies in place to improve the quality and effectiveness of government systems and commitments on governance and human rights.

Within this context, we continue to follow closely the trials of opposition politicians and civil society leaders on which further developments are expected.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid he has committed to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [148658]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since October 2003 DFID has committed over £145 million to emergency relief operations in Darfur. The UK has also contributed £73 million to the African Union Mission in Sudan for the protection of civilians.

DFID has led international efforts for an effective humanitarian response in Sudan. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to remove bureaucratic obstacles that inhibit work on the ground. We support the Common Humanitarian Fund, which allows the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator to direct resources towards those in greatest need.

The Government will continue to work vigorously and at the highest level to secure a lasting peace in Darfur.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ports

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vessels docked in Northern Ireland ports from *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU states in each of the last two years. [146941]

Paul Goggins: This is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Prisoners: Literacy

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to improve the rate of literacy amongst prisoners; and what other measures are in place to increase the prospects of a prisoner obtaining employment on release from prison. [148065]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service provides a range of educational services at each prison with particular focus on increasing proficiency in basic literacy and numeracy skills. On committal to prison individuals are assessed to determine their standard of literacy and numeracy and, where appropriate, the level of entry into the Essential Skills Programme. Literacy skills are further encouraged through the use of library services.

Employability potential is increased through a wide range of vocational training opportunities which include bricklaying, joinery, painting and decorating, IT, plastering and crafts.

Job search terminals are installed in each of the three prisons to provide prisoners with up-to-date job information and recently, at Magilligan Prison, a new pilot programme (GOALS) was launched to help prepare prisoners for release and employment. The Prison Service works closely with other statutory, voluntary and community organisations such as NIACRO and Business in the Community in sourcing potential employment opportunities for inmates on release.

Trade Unions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what figures the Northern Ireland Certification Officer holds on the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of trade union members, of each union, who have opted in to a political fund; [146881]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the rules on trade union political funds published by the Northern Ireland Certification Officer. [146882]

Paul Goggins: These are now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Vandalism

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to reduce the incidence of criminal damage in Northern Ireland. [148057]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit funds and supports 26 multi-agency Community Safety Partnerships across the whole of Northern Ireland to undertake projects to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour, including criminal damage, in their areas.

Organisations represented on the CSPs, including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, are also engaged in their own right in the delivery of projects and initiatives which will contribute to reduction of crime and antisocial behaviour, including criminal damage. In addition, the National Intelligence Model enables police commanders to identify crime problem areas such as prolific criminal damage and to allocate resources to deal with it.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Common Purpose

Philip Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office paid to Common Purpose in each of the last five years; for what purpose; and what the outcome of the expenditure was. [147594]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Honours

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy not to have a Prime Minister's resignation honours list; and if he will make a statement. [147100]

The Prime Minister: It has not been the practice of Prime Ministers to set out a policy on this.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what percentage of staff in his Department were over 60 years of age in each of the last three years; [145686]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* over 60 years of age have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years; and what percentage in each case this is of the number of new recruits in each year. [145700]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his question 143901 of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2W.

Departments: Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last three years; and at what total cost. [146980]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1765W and to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1048W.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147317]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not hold this information centrally as staff are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147047]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2047W.

Departments: Stationery

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on stationery in each of the last five years. [149116]

David Cairns: The information is as follows:

	£
2002-03	[1]25,294
2003-04	16,858
2004-05	11,314
2005-06	16,415
2006-07	17,955

[1] The Scotland Office provides a number of services, including stationery and office supplies, to the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland (OAG); prior to 2003-04, expenditure by OAG was not held separately.

Scottish Executive

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings he and his predecessors have held with Scottish Executive Ministers in each of the last five years. [148606]

Des Browne: I and my predecessors have had numerous meetings with Scottish Executive Ministers in each of the last five years.

WALES

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149180]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149240]

Mr. Hain: None.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on monies from Objective 1 funds returned to the Welsh Assembly Government by Welsh local authorities; and what consideration he has given to adding the returned funds to the Convergence Fund. [147944]

Mr. Hain: I have regular meetings with the First Minister on a range of issues including Objective 1.

I know that the Welsh Assembly Government are committed to ensuring the effective delivery of the Objective 1 Programme for West Wales and the Valleys. Where underspends are identified, the Wales European Funding Office recycles these within the programme. However, European Commission rules would not allow any surplus funds from one round of programme to be transferred to another.

Furthermore, I am advised that the Welsh Assembly Government have achieved all annual spend (i.e. N+2) targets for the Objective 1 programme to date, and are on track to achieve the N+2 target for 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the budget for the Access to Work scheme in order to meet the Government's aspiration of getting a further million older people and a million people with disabilities into work. [146848]

Mrs. McGuire: The Access to Work budget has more than quadrupled since 1997, from £15 million to £64 million and now helps nearly three times as many people as it did ten years ago. However, Access to Work is only one of a range of measures which we have to help disabled people return to work, and most people currently claiming an incapacity benefit do not require help from this programme.

The aspiration to reduce the number of people on incapacity benefits by 1 million over the course of a decade remains our overall long-term aim. We will do this by addressing the needs of each individual. We will help those already in work to stay in work if they become ill or disabled. We will also provide support to those already without work to help them find the right work for them and we will create the right environment for them to move into and keep a job. The support available includes our successful Pathways to Work programme, new deal for disabled people and a wide range of programmes provided by Jobcentre Plus, which includes Access to Work.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of unmet demand has been in relation to applications for support under the Access to Work scheme during the last five years. [146849]

Mrs. McGuire: Access to Work is a demand-led programme and the budget has increased year-on-year to cope with the extra numbers of customers and has more than quadrupled since 1997, helping three times as many people. During the last five years, all customers who have been eligible for help under the current programme rules have been offered help through Access to Work. Therefore, there has not been any unmet demand.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has undertaken of the *(a)* value for money and *(b)* effectiveness of

publicity undertaken to promote the Access to Work scheme to employers. [146850]

Mrs. McGuire: The promotion of Access to Work comes under the wider Jobcentre Plus marketing budget. Around £125,000 was spent in 2005-06 on targeted marketing of Jobcentre Plus services for disabled people in disability magazines. The Department does not record specific marketing expenditure on Access to Work separately.

Because Access to Work has not been marketed in isolation from the other disability programmes, it is not possible to evaluate how effective the overall marketing exercise has been for that specific programme.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether private enforcement of maintenance debt will be permitted under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement; [146142]

(2) what plans he has to allow parents with care to take legal action to enforce child maintenance where *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* arrears has not been secured within a set time scale; and if he will make a statement. [146439]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have given serious consideration to whether or not parents with care should be able to privately enforce maintenance debt under the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. However we do not believe it is appropriate and I refer you to the Government's response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee report (CM7062 para 28).

Child Support Agency: Compensation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to pay compensation to parents with care who are owed large arrears through the Child Support Agency which may never be collected; and if he will make a statement. [146172]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 December 2006, *Official report*, column 1990W.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the longest repayment schedule for Child Support Agency (CSA) arrears is which has been agreed by the CSA to date; and if he will make a statement. [146136]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-resident parents owing arrears through the Child Support Agency who are now deceased. [146149]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-resident parents owing arrears through the Child Support Agency who are now deceased.

The Agency is not able to provide an estimate of the number of non-resident parents owing arrears of child support maintenance who are deceased. Current legislation states once a non-resident parent dies, the Agency closes the case. The Agency would in such cases, if we were approached by the Executor of the Will accept an offer for child maintenance arrears. The Agency cannot make an approach directly to the Executor of the Will. It would be for the parent with care to pursue the Executor of the Will for maintenance arrears.

Since the launch of the Agency the value of debt suspended due to this reason on the old computer system is £2.645 million, the equivalent value for the new system is not available.

I hope this is helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of compliance rates for Child Support Agency maintenance paid by *(a)* manual means, *(b)* direct debit, *(c)* standing order, *(d)* maintenance direct, *(e)* deduction of earnings order, *(f)* deduction from benefits and *(g)* other means in the last 12 months; what proportion of total maintenance was paid by each method in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [146629]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 July 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of compliance rates for Child Support Agency maintenance paid by (a) manual means (b) direct debit (c) standing order (d) maintenance direct (e) deduction of earnings order (f) deduction from benefits and (g) other means in the last 12 months; what proportion of total maintenance by paid by each method in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement.

The information requested on compliance rates can be obtained from table 10 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics. A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

Maintenance direct is a private arrangement between parents, and the agency assures compliance unless the arrangement breaks down.

The proportion of total maintenance paid by each method of collection is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this helpful.

Proportion of total maintenance received in each month by method of collection: April 2006 to March 2007

	Deduction from Benefit	Deduction of Earning/Orders	Direct Debit	Manual	Standing Order	Maintenance Direct	Percentage Other
2006							
April	1	27	11	11	18	32	0
May	1	29	11	10	17	30	0
June	1	30	11	10	17	31	0
July	1	30	11	9	17	32	0
August	1	29	11	10	17	32	0
September	1	28	11	9	17	33	0
October	1	29	11	9	17	32	1
November	1	29	11	9	16	33	0
December	1	26	11	9	17	35	1
2007							
January	1	29	11	9	16	32	0
February	1	29	12	9	15	33	0
March	1	29	11	10	16	32	0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest per cent. and may not sum to 100 as a result.
2. Proportions calculated based on the value of collections in each category.
3. The number of new Deduction from Earnings Order/Request (DEO/R) decreased in December 2006. This is due to a fix on the new computer system to suspend 8,500 ineffective Deduction from Earning Orders on cases where employers had informed the Agency that the non-resident parent on that case was no longer in their employment. Many of these had compliance restored through DEO/Rs in January 2007.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to reduce the backlog of cases awaiting action by the Child Support Agency. [146721]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 29 June 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 11 July 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to reduce the backlog of cases awaiting action by the Child Support Agency.

Processing applications commences on receipt and at any time the number of unprocessed applications the Agency holds is negligible. An application is described as cleared once the maintenance calculation has been made and payment schedule established or if work on it is completed for another reason (e.g. if it is withdrawn).

Given the necessity of locating the non-resident parent, establishing parentage, obtaining income details etc. the Agency will always have a number of uncleared applications. The Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, announced last February, includes a commitment to reduce the number of uncleared applications and reduce the time taken to clear new intake.

Significant progress has been made in this area. In March 2007 the volume of uncleared new scheme applications stood at 156,000. This is a fall of 65,000 since March 2006, equivalent to a 29 per cent. reduction and the percentage cleared within 12 weeks has increased from 53 per cent. to 61 per cent.

The Agency is confident that it will be able to meet the new Secretary of State target to reduce uncleared new scheme applications to 140,000 and further increase clearance rates by the end of this operational year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of children living in poverty in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [148052]

Mrs. McGuire: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)". The report uses 60 per cent. of median income as the low income threshold. This threshold is the internationally recognised measure of poverty. The report is available in the Library.

The percentage of children in the UK living below the low income threshold stood at 22 per cent. in 2005-06. In the North East region, during the three-year period up to and including 2005-06, 28 per cent. of children were living below the threshold.

The figure for the North East region represents a fall in the total number of children living below the low income threshold of 18 per cent. in five years, which is broadly the same decrease as has been seen across the UK as a whole in the seven years since 1998-99.

The information requested is not available below regional level.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress towards meeting the 2010 target of halving child poverty. [148296]

Mrs. McGuire: Our child poverty targets are ambitious and rightly so; when this Government came to power, one in three children were living in poverty. Our labour market polices and the tax credit systems have helped to lift 600,000 children out of poverty.

We know there is much more to do and are committed to meeting the targets. Earlier this year DWP published 'Working for Children', our strategy for parental employment, and this year's Budget included measures which will lift an additional 200,000 children out of poverty. DWP is currently working closely with HM Treasury, the Department for Families, Children and Schools, and other Government Departments on producing a child poverty delivery agreement as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which foreign countries civil servants from his Department have visited over the last 12 months in order to study the design and impact of welfare reforms. [148155]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* With a view to studying best practice in welfare reform, officials from my Department have visited a number of countries in the 12 months up to 30 June 2007, including Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Denmark and Germany.

Females: Disadvantaged

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to help women from disadvantaged backgrounds enter jobs that will lift them out of poverty. [146396]

Mrs. McGuire: We know that women living in families with no one in work are more likely to be living in poverty. All of our labour market policies are gender-neutral although some by their nature help more women than men. As a result of this Government's policies nearly 2 million more women are now employed than there were in 1997.

However we know there is still more to do. That is why we are piloting New Deal Plus for Lone Parents (NDPLP) in seven areas across the country, including Edmonton. As part of the package of help NDPLP provides, eligible people can claim an In-Work Credit of £40 (£60 in London) a week for up to a year when they move into work.

It is also why we have introduced the Deprived Areas Fund, and are introducing the City Strategy which provides tailored support in some of the most deprived areas of the country to all people in those communities with the greatest barriers to returning to work.

And with a lack of affordable child care being the greatest barrier to getting work for many women we are determined to continue to build on our policies, which, since 1997, have already resulted in a doubling of the number of child care places in England and, with extra help through the tax credit system, have significantly improved affordability. In addition, the London Childcare Affordability Project, which is jointly funded with the Greater London Authority, is testing the effectiveness of providing additional subsidies in the capital, where costs tend to be higher.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the ranking is of local authority housing benefit services by comprehensive performance assessment rating for each year since its introduction. [146050]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the change to the use of the 0845 number for Jobcentre Plus on *(a)* Jobcentre Plus local offices and *(b)* their customers. [146686]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 11 July 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking what assessment he has made of the likely effect that the change to the use of the 0845 number for Jobcentre Plus will have on Jobcentre Plus local offices and their customers.

Centralisation of benefit processing represents part of the modernisation of Jobcentre Plus services. It allows us to build centres of expertise which will enable us to improve standards of customer service, develop greater expertise in meeting customers' needs and move work around the country to meet changes in local demand so reducing delays.

This way of working reduces benefit enquiry footfall in our local Jobcentre Plus offices, which means they can then concentrate their efforts in helping customers back to work.

Many of our customers find it easier to access our services now there is a choice of using the telephone, the internet or face to face. Centralising our benefit claims systems means customers have the option to make benefit enquiries from the privacy of their own homes and their calls will be answered by a pool of benefits experts. Creating a Contact Centre network means that we are better able to cope with peaks in demand.

We recognise that the telephone is not suitable for all customers and for this reason we continue to offer alternative means to contact us and to make benefit claims.

I hope this is helpful.

Redundancies: Jobcentre Plus

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff have been made redundant since July 2006. [147689]

Mrs. McGuire: There have been no compulsory redundancies in Jobcentre Plus since July 2006.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were built or refurbished outside the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in each year since the start of the BSF programme. [148138]

Jim Knight: Wave 1 of Building Schools for the Future (BSF) launched in 2004, and the first school procured through a local education partnership is due to open in September.

The number of schools built or refurbished outside this programme is given in the table. The data come from a survey of local authorities to which over 95 per cent. responded. There may be a margin of error, and the data may include some of the 'quick win' projects in early BSF. A summary of the survey information is in the House of Commons Library.

Financial year	*New schools built*	*Existing schools rebuilt*	*Existing schools refurbished*[1]
2004-05	28	95	235
2005-06	28	149	299
2006-07	17	170	240
2007-08	27	160	251

[1] More than 50 per cent. of floor area.

Child Minding: Training

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the provision of training for child minders; and what guidance he provides to local authorities on the matter. [147297]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The Department has not received any recent representations on the provision of training for child minders. Guidance to local authorities on the provision of such training is contained within statutory guidance on the Childcare Act 2006, Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance, General Sure Start Grant allocation letters for 2006-08 and Transformation Fund guidance.

Class Sizes: Secondary Education

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was in *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* grammar and *(c)* independent schools in (i) the Ribble Valley and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [147848]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The available information is shown in the table. Information on class sizes is not collected from independent schools.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Average class size[2]—2003-07 position in January each year—Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency

	Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency			*England*		
	Grammar schools[3]	*Other secondary schools*	*All maintained secondary schools*	*Grammar schools[3]*	*Other secondary schools*	*All maintained secondary schools*
2003	20.3	22.8	22.3	20.7	21.9	21.9
2004	20.9	23.2	22.9	20.4	21.9	21.8
2005	20.3	23.2	22.8	20.4	21.7	21.7
2006	19.3	23.0	22.4	20.2	21.5	21.5
2007[4]	20.9	22.2	22.0	20.1	21.3	21.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period on the day of the census.
[3] School type as reported by schools. There is currently one grammar school in Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency.
[4] Provisional data.
Source:
School census

Classroom Assistants: Mathematics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 783W, on classroom assistants: mathematics, (1) what assessment his Department has made of the degree to which the scheme is meeting its objectives; [146954]

(2) when the scheme began; and how much funding his Department gave to the scheme in each financial year since it started. [147166]

Jim Knight: The Student Associate Scheme began in the academic year 2003-04, The following table details the budget for each academic year to date. The scheme has proved to be extremely successful with schools, higher education institutions and undergraduates. Its twin aims are to use the undergraduates as role models for school pupils and to encourage bright undergraduates into initial teacher training (ITT) by giving them a taste of life in front of a classroom. The Training and Development Agency for Schools, who administer the scheme, are about to carry out an assessment process which will try to ascertain how successful the scheme has been in terms of its twin aims. Data should be available in October 2007. However, previous limited research suggests that around 40 per cent. of participating undergraduates go on to ITT. In recognition of its success, the Treasury will announce on 5 July 2007 that the scheme will be extended and placements doubled over a three-year period.

Student Associate Scheme

Academic year	*£ million Budget*
2003-04	7.5
2004-05	10.0
2005-06	16.6
2006-07	11.9
2007-08	11.9
Total	57.9

Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees of the former Department for Education and Skills moved *(a)* within his Department and *(b)* out of his Department on its creation. [148419]

Kevin Brennan: Following the creation of the Department for Children, Schools and Families:

(a) A total of 2,890 former Department for Education and Skills staff will be employed in my Department; and

(b) a total of 560 former Department for Education and Skills staff will move to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

This position may change as we work further through the details of establishing the new Departments.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147324]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was created on 28 June 2007 and does not hold up-to-date information on staff using public transport to commute. We plan to carry out a survey and develop a travel plan for the new Department later this year.

Drama: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes are planned to the number of Shakespeare plays that may be offered for study by schools at Key Stage 3 from 2009 onwards; and if he will make a statement. [148136]

Jim Knight: It is the QCA's responsibility to set and maintain standards independently of Government. They have decided to make a choice of two Shakespeare plays, rather than three, available for the KS3 English test from 2009. They have based their decision on the historically low take-up by schools (less than 5 per cent.) of the third option. There will be no reduction in the standard or quality of the assessment of Shakespeare.

Education: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which public service agreement targets his Department is now responsible which were not previously the responsibility of the former Department for Education and Skills. [147745]

Kevin Brennan: In addition to 12 PSA targets from Spending Review 2004 which my Department is directly responsible for, the Department for Children, Schools and Families will lead work across Government to improve outcomes for children—exact working arrangements and responsibilities will be decided in due course.

Howard Goodall: Correspondence

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been given to the singing ambassador, Mr. Howard Goodall, on responding to correspondence from hon. Members. [148282]

Jim Knight: There has been huge interest in the national singing campaign and Howard Goodall, the singing ambassador, has received hundreds of messages from schools, organisations and individuals asking how they can become involved or providing details of the work they already do. Mr. Goodall is working as an unpaid and independent champion for singing and, as such, has received no guidance from Government on responding to correspondence.

Pre-school Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* Steiner, *(b)* Waldorf and *(c)* Montessori pre-school institutions are registered in each local authority area; whether each institution has open enrolment; and whether each makes provision for those who rely entirely upon nursery grants to fund a place. [148338]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally. Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure sufficient free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds in their area. In discharging this duty, local authorities must have regard to the code of practice which states that they must ensure sufficient places are available for parents who only want to access the free entitlement.

Primary Education: Literacy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average reading age was of pupils aged *(a)* five, *(b)* six, *(c)* seven, *(d)* eight, *(e)* nine, *(f)* 10 and *(g)* 11 in primary schools in each of the last five years. [147847]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The requested information is not available. The Department does not collect data on the reading ages of individual pupils.

The Department does however; collect data on pupils' achievements in reading at the end of key stage 1 teacher assessments and at the end of the key stage 2 national curriculum tests. The target level at key stage 1 is level 2 in reading. At key stage 2 the target level in English is level 4. Key stage 2 pupils are assessed in both reading and writing to arrive at their overall level in the English test. In 2006, 84 per cent. of pupils achieved level 2 or above in reading and 83 per cent. of pupils achieved level 4 or above.

The Government commissioned the independent review of the teaching of early reading, led by Jim Rose, to find ways to raise standards in reading even further. The review recommended that all children should follow a programme of systematic phonics

teaching, This recommendation has been implemented in the revised primary framework for teaching literacy, which was published last year.

Primary and Secondary Education: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary school pupils were excluded in *(a)* the Ribble Valley and *(b)* England in the last five years; [147845]

(2) how many secondary school pupils were excluded from secondary schools in *(a)* the Ribble Valley and *(b)* England in the last five years. [147849]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of exclusions 2001-02 to 2005-06: Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency

Maintained primary

	Ribble Valley				*England[2]*			
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*
2001-02	[4]	[4]	[5]	[5]	1,450	0.03	[5]	[5]
2002-03	[4]	[4]	[5]	[5]	1,300	0.03	[5]	[5]
2003-04	0	[6]	21	0.25	1,270	0.03	41,300	0.97
004-05	0	[6]	22	0.26	1,000	0.03	43,720	1.04
2005-06	[4]	[4]	[5]	[5]	970	0.02	[5]	[5]

Maintained secondary

	Ribble Valley				*England[2]*			
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[3]*
2001-02	16	0.9	[5]	[5]	7,740	0.24	[5]	[5]
2002-03	20	0.23	[5]	[5]	7,890	0.23	[5]	[5]
2003-04	21	0.24	806	9.21	8,320	0.25	288,040	8.66
2004-05	21	0.24	779	8.83	8,070	0.24	329,680	9.94
2005-06	14	0.16	804	9.13	7,990	0.24	343,840	10.40

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils).
[4] Fewer than three, or a rate based on fewer than three.
[5] Not available. [6] Not applicable. *Source:* School census

Pupils: Basic Skills

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to improve the standard of basic skills of school leavers. [148243]

Jim Knight: The percentage of 16-year-olds achieving five A*-C GCSE grades or equivalent has risen from 45.1 per cent. in 1997 to 58.1 per cent. In 2006.

Teaching literacy and maths at primary school is the essential foundation for every child's learning. Last year we revised the primary framework for literacy and mathematics for the first time since the national literacy and numeracy strategies were introduced. The revised document embeds best practice in systematic phonics teaching, as recommended by the Rose review, and raises expectations for pupils' progress. For example they are expected to learn their times tables a year earlier.

We have provided schools with significant funding for personalised learning: reaching £900 million this year. This can be used to support small group and one-to-one tuition for those who have fallen behind national expectations in English and maths. The Budget announced further funding sufficient to provide an average of 10 hours of one-to-one tuition in schools for over 300,000 under-attaining pupils a year in both English and mathematics by 2010-11. We have provided schools with guidance and support on how to help pupils who are at risk of falling behind in English and maths through programmes such as Study Plus, which targets pupils who are struggling with English and maths at Key Stage 4 (ages 14 to 16). Changes to the curriculum at KS3 will also, over time, support higher standards of literacy and numeracy.

We know that demonstrating basic competence and the ability to apply practically what they learn in English, maths and ICT is vital to young people's future employability. Competence in functional skills in these areas will be tested as an important part of the new diplomas for 14 to 19-year-olds which are being piloted from September 2008 and will be available nationally from 2013. For students embarking on GCSEs in English, maths and ICT from September 2010, it will also be necessary to demonstrate the appropriate level of functional skills in order to obtain a pass at grades A* to G*. Pilots of functional skills will be taking place in a range of schools and colleges across England from this September, supported by a

programme of professional development for teachers to support the necessary changes in teaching and learning.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per head was provided to school children up to 18 years of age in *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency and *(b)* Telford constituency in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [147676]

Jim Knight: The requested information is allocated to local authorities and not at constituency level. The Shrewsbury constituency is part of Shropshire LA, and the Telford constituency is part of Telford and Wrekin LA. The revenue funding figures per pupil aged three to 19 for Shropshire LA and Telford and Wrekin LA for years 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows:

	Shropshire	*Telford and Wrekin*
2003-04	3,710	3,790
2004-05	3,850	3,910
2005-06	4,040	4,120

Notes:
1. Price base: real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DCSF Department Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding is expected to be minimal.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what amount in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* real terms the Government have spent on (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools from its education budget in the last five years. [147846]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* The requested figures are in the following table. These are extracted from table 12.3 of the 2007 Department for Education and Skills departmental report, a link to which follows:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/deptreport2007/

Education expenditure[1] by central and local government[2] by sector in real terms[3] in England 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

Schools[4]	*2002-03 outturn*	*2003-04 outturn*	*2004-05 outturn*	*2005-06 provisional outturn*	*2006-07 estimated outturn*
Primary[5]	10,188	10,785	10,911	11,350	11,640
Percentage of education expenditure	22.3	21.6	21.0	20.6	20.7
Secondary	12,944	14.295	14,869	15,454	15,822
Percentage of education expenditure	28.3	28.6	28.6	28.0	28.2
Total education expenditure (real terms)	45,697	49,992	51,998	55,168	56,121

[1] Figures within departmental expenditure limits (DEL), Excludes DfES administration costs and expenditure on other areas than education, for instance on children and families and on skills.
[2] The recurrent local authority figures in this table are drawn from Table 8.4 of the 2007 departmental report; the footnotes to that table set out the underlying data sources. Central Government figures are drawn from the Combined Online Information System (COINS).
[3] All figures have been converted to 2005-06 price levels using the 28 March 2007 gross domestic product (GDP) deflators.
[4] Figures from 2003-04 onwards reflect the transfer of responsibility from the Department to LEAs of costs relating to teachers' pensions.
[5] Primary figures exclude expenditure on under fives.

Pupils: Qualifications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 were entered for a qualification provided by the awarding body CACHE in the last year for which figures are available; [147306]

(2) how many pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 were entered for a CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Child Care and Education in the last year for which figures are available. [147309]

Jim Knight: This information is not available.

Pupils: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether parents will need to demonstrate that *(a)* they are registered disabled and *(b)* that they have been assessed for a certain level of community care services for home to school transport to be provided to their children, with reference to sections 87 and 88 of his Department's guidance on home to school travel and transport; [148439]

(2) whether home to school transport will be provided to children if their parent's disability varies in severity from day to day, with reference to sections 87 and 88 of his Department's guidance on home to school travel and transport; [148440]

(3) whether home to school transport will be provided to children in circumstances where they have parents with disabilities who are in receipt of support from community care services, with reference to sections 87 and 88 of his Department's guidance on home to school travel and transport. [148441]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* It is for the local authorities to ensure that their policies and practice

take account of the provisions of disability discrimination legislation, when determining entitlement to free home to school transport.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus places there were in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority on 1 January 2007, broken down by school type; and how many schools of each type there were in each authority. [147510]

Jim Knight: The number of surplus places in primary and secondary schools in each local authority at January 2006 is contained in the following tables which have been placed in the House Libraries.

The number of surplus places in primary and secondary schools at January 2007, broken down by school type, is currently being collected from local authorities and will be published in January 2008; this is the first year that the Department has collected surplus places data by school type. Surplus places data are published on Teachernet at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/fallingschoolrolls/context/stats/

Schools: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to tackle the incidence of school populations dominated by one ethnic type in English schools; and if he will make a statement. [146736]

Jim Knight: Where communities are ethnically diverse their schools should aspire to reflect that diversity. However, it is unlawful for schools to take account of a child's ethnic background when allocating places. What is important is that all parents are able to exercise their fundamental right to decide what school they would like their child to attend confident that they will not be discriminated against because of their background. The new school admissions code, which came into force on 28 February 2007, has established a framework to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to attend a good school. In addition, the governing bodies of maintained schools in England have a duty under section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion and Ofsted will report on the discharge of this duty.

Schools: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his predecessor's answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 331, which pupils in North Oxfordshire have received £1,000 extra funding; and how many pupils have received such funding. [147695]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families allocates education funding to local authorities and not at constituency level, The requested information is for Oxfordshire local authority. Between 1997-98 and 2005-06 the revenue funding from Government for nursery, primary and secondary school pupils in Oxfordshire local authority rose by £1,030 (or 34 per cent.) in real terms. In addition, following the introduction of the Dedicated School Grant in 2006-07, the per pupil revenue funding in Oxfordshire rose by 6.8 per cent. in 2006-07 and 6.4 per cent. in 2007-08.

Schools: Literacy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what progress has been made on the review of the national literacy strategy; and if he will make a statement; [148244]

(2) what measures his Department is taking to improve the standard of literacy in schools. [148190]

Jim Knight: We commissioned the Independent Review of the Teaching of Early Reading—carried out by Jim Rose—to inform our efforts to improve standards of literacy in primary schools.

We have revised the primary framework for literacy and mathematics for the first time since the national literacy strategy was introduced in 1998, putting phonics at the heart of the teaching of reading. The renewed framework and associated training are the key vehicle for implementing Jim Rose's recommendations.

To provide further support to teachers we have produced a full, high quality, phonics teaching programme—'Letters and Sounds'—which was published on 30 April.

We are also providing support for children who struggle to learn to read through the Every Child a Reader programme. This three-year, £10 million pilot, funded in partnership with the KPMG Foundation and other charitable and corporate funders, is helping 5,000 six-year-olds with significant literacy difficulties to learn to read. ECAR will be rolled out nationally from 2008-09, benefiting over 30,000 children a year by 2010-11.

Our reforms to the secondary curriculum are designed to support the continued development of functional skills in English, maths and ICT. The curriculum changes proposed by QCA would also create flexibility for teachers to tailor the curriculum to provide extra support for children who are at risk of falling behind in English or maths.

In addition to developing literacy skills, we are also taking steps to encourage a broader appreciation of English; for example through our Boys into Books programme, which has made a selection of books likely to appeal to boys available to all secondary schools. We have also worked with the Globe Theatre to develop a podcast to help children to study Much Ado About Nothing.

Schools: Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his predecessor's answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 331, (1) what the locations are of the six new schools in North Oxfordshire; [147696]

(2) what the names are of the 16 schools refurbished in North Oxfordshire; [147697]

(3) which of the 549 classrooms refurbished are in North Oxfordshire. [147698]

Jim Knight: The data collected are for Oxfordshire county council, rather than North Oxfordshire, and give school names rather than locations. A summary of the information is available in the House Library.

The six new schools built are:

Year opened	*School name*
1998-99	The Ace centre Nursery School
1999-2000	Ladygrove Park Primary School
2000-01	Bure Park Primary School
2002-03	St. John the Evangelist CofE Primary School
2003-04	Hanwell Fields Community School
2003-04	Madley Brook Community Primary School

The 16 schools referred to, which are existing schools that have been rebuilt rather than refurbished, are:

Year opened	*School name*
1997-88	Wallingford School
1998-99	Grandpont Nursery School
1999-2000	Hanborough Manor CofE School
1999-2000	Watlington Primary School
2002-03	Bishopswood School
2002-03	Chilton Count Primary School
2002-03	Kingfisher School
2002-03	Sandhills Community Primary School
2002-03	Shenington Church of England Primary School
2003-04	Springfield School
2003-04	SS Philip and James' Church of England Aided Primary School Oxford
2003-04	Wantage Church of England Primary School
2005-06	Fritwell Church of England Primary School
2006-07	Elms Road Nursery School and Daycare
2006-07	Nettlebed Community School
2006-07	St. Gregory the Great VA Catholic Secondary School

A further 20 schools have had 50 per cent. or more of their floor area refurbished:

Year completed	*School name*
2001-02	Bardwell School
2001-02	Slade Nursery School
2001-02	Thameside Primary School
2002-03	Bayards Hill Primary School
2002-03	SS Mary and John Church of England Primary School
2002-03	Windmill Primary School
2003-04	Badgemore Community School
2003-04	Caldecott Primary School
2003-04	Cherwell School (The)
2003-04	The John Henry Newman CE (A) Primary School
2003-04	Whitchurch Primary School
2004-05	Leafield Church of England (Controlled) Primary School
2004-05	Oxfordshire Pupil Referral Unit and Integration Service
2005-06	Bartlemas Nursery School
2005-06	Benson Church of England Primary School
2005-06	Orchard Meadow Primary School
2005-06	South Stoke Primary School
2005-06	Uffington Church of England Primary School
2006-07	Mabel Prichard School
2006-07	Marsh Baldon Church of England Controlled School

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the implementation of his Department's proposals for reform of the 14-to-19 curriculum. [148191]

Jim Knight: The Department has made substantial progress in delivering the objectives published in December 2005 in the 14-19 Implementation Plan. We have met all major milestones to date as set out in chapter 5 of the implementation plan and are working closely with our key partners and are on track with the activities for 2007 and beyond.

14-19 reform continues to be a key priority of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

I refer the hon. Member to the replies given to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) earlier this year, 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 831W, and 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1017W.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to change the functional skills requirement of the level 2 specialised diploma. [148134]

Jim Knight: There are no plans to change the functional skills requirement of the level 2 diploma.

Specialised Diplomas: Take-Up

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the functional skills requirement on the potential uptake of the specialised diploma; and if he will make a statement. [148135]

Jim Knight: We do not expect any impact on potential diploma take up because of the functional skills requirement. Functional skills will be embedded in all learning routes, such as apprenticeships and GCSEs, as well as diplomas. This means that young people will need to demonstrate competence in functional skills wherever they work or study.

Teachers: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants were employed in Warrington (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the last date for which figures are available, broken down into primary and secondary schools. [146260]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* Warrington local authority was created as a separate local authority with responsibilities for education on 1 April 1998. Prior to this date figures for Warrington were included with those for the former Cheshire local authority area and are not available separately.

The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Warrington local authority area in January 1999 and 2006.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers and teaching assistants in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Warrington local authority: January 1999 and 2006

	Regular teachers		*Teaching assistants*	
	Nursery/primary	*Secondary*	*Nursery/primary*	*Secondary*
1999	700	780	190	20
2006	880	950	430	130

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DfES annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, 618g (regular teachers) and Annual School Census (teaching assistants).

Youth Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the minutes of the meeting of the Third Sector Forum for Children and Young People on 23 April to be published; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish them. [149206]

Kevin Brennan: The minutes from the latest meeting of the DfES Third Sector Forum for Children and Young People's Services will be made public shortly. They will be found on the Every Child Matters web site through the Strategy and Governance section on the Third Sector Forum page. The meeting was postponed from 23 April to 8 May and administrative resources have been focused on the publication on 25 June of the DfES Third Sector Strategy and Action Plan.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149195]

Margaret Hodge: No employees have been disciplined or dismissed in the last 12 months for inappropriate use of the internet or for using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers.

As part of the Department's internet policy, we monitor all internet usage and block inappropriate sites. We also block all premium rate phone numbers from our system.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149042]

Margaret Hodge: Expenditure on overnight accommodation by the Department's civil servants is not recorded separately in the Department's accounting system. It could be obtained by retrieving and manually analysing a large number of travel and incidental expense claims only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value is of *(a)* all payments by his Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997 and *(b)* the payment to Opinion Leader Research for "It's the taking part that counts." [148852]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no payments made by my Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. "It's the taking part that counts" was a report commissioned by Camelot; therefore no payments were made to Opinion Leader Research by my Department.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147059]

Margaret Hodge: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, staff have taken sick leave as follows during the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

	Number of staff	*Percentage of total staff*
Staff who have taken five or more periods of sick leave of less than five days	17	3.24
Staff who have taken four periods of sick leave of less than five days	10	1.90
Staff who have taken three periods of sick leave of less than five days	30	5.72
Staff who have taken two periods of sick leave of less than five days	49	9.35

Gambling: Legislation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the time period necessary for the gambling industry to implement fully the regulations to be made under section 240 of the Gambling Act 2005. [148542]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The overwhelming majority of gaming machines currently operating under Part III of the Gaming Act 1968 will not require significant alteration when the Gambling Act comes fully in to force on 1 September. Where adjustments are necessary, the Department has invited the gambling industry to provide estimates of the time period necessary to implement the regulations under section 240 of the Act. The Department has received several responses, which will be carefully considered as the regulations are finalised in the coming weeks.

Licensing Laws: Music

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the regulations contained within the Licensing Act 2003 lead to a growth in live music. [148541]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS Simplification Plan sets out where we think there may be scope to adjust the licensing regulations to remove any unnecessary burdens on those putting on licensable activities, including live music. In addition, the Live Music Forum published its report on 4 July 2007, and made a number of recommendations relating to the Licensing Act 2003, which we will consider carefully before responding formally.

However, I am pleased that the evidence so far, including the Forum's report, does not suggest the new licensing regulations have had a widespread negative impact on live music, and shows a number of benefits have been delivered. Our aim is to ensure the new licensing legislation will help live music continue to thrive.

The DCMS Simplification Plan and Live Music Forum report are available in the Libraries of the House, and on the DCMS website:

www.culture.gov.uk

Museums and Galleries: Public Libraries

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the impact on the standards and accessibility of museums and libraries of changes to local government structure. [146461]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State looks forward to discussions on future unitary structures at the appropriate Ministerial Committee of the Cabinet.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made towards its public service agreement target to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010. [148826]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Given the complexity of this public health challenge, DCMS shares this target with the Department of Health and with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The three Departments are working together, through joint cross-departmental programme management arrangements, on six fronts: to change population attitudes towards eating and activity; helping children to be active and eat healthily; supporting targeted local-level obesity interventions in children; raising awareness of the importance of healthy weight to children and parents; working with local partners on delivery; and developing the knowledge base.

My Department's contribution to this programme of work is chiefly through making children and families more physically active via children's play, school sport and community sport; improving children's diet via our work with Ofcom on restricting promotion and advertising to children of foods high in fat, salt and sugar; and our work with the hospitality sector to promote healthier food choices.

Through the Big Lottery Fund £155 million Play initiative local authorities are able to develop free open access play provision in areas of greatest need in England.

And on broadcast food promotion we have worked with Ofcom to produce new rules that ban the advertising of high fat, salt and sugar foods in and around all children's programming; on dedicated children's channels; and in programmes of particular appeal to children under the age of 16. Ofcom have also introduced new rules on the content of advertisements targeted at primary school children. These rules ban the use of celebrities and characters licensed from third-parties (such as cartoons), promotional claims (such as free gifts) and health or nutrition claims. Ofcom announced the new rules in February 2007.

The National School Sport Strategy, jointly implemented by DCMS and DCSF, is a key component of a "whole school" programme of addressing obesity. The 2005-06 school sport survey found that overall, 80 per cent. of pupils participate in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week. This exceeded the target of 75 per cent. for 2006 and demonstrates a considerable increase from the estimated 25 per cent. in 2002. This target will rise to 85 per cent. by 2008. By 2010 the ambition is to offer all children at least four hours of sport a week.

We are also working with school sports partnerships to increase participation in physical activity by overweight and obese children.

Tourism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* overseas and *(b)* domestic tourists visited England in each year since 1997. [148829]

Margaret Hodge: The following tables show the number of visits to England by *(a)* overseas residents and *(b)* UK residents where this included an overnight stay.

Inbound visits to England

	Visits (million)
1997	19.6
1998	19.9
1999	21.5

Inbound visits to England

	Visits (million)
2000	21.5
2001	19.3
2002	20.5
2003	21.1
2004	23.6
2005	25.3
2006 (provisional)	27.0

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Domestic overnight trips in England

	Visits (million)
1997	125.6
1998	115.4
1999	137.7
2000	140.4
2001	131.9
2002	134.9
2003	121.3
2004	101.4
2005	111.2
2006	101.8

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)[1]

In addition, a substantial number of day visits are made to, or within, England. The last Leisure Visits Survey in 2005 recorded a total of 870 million tourism day visits to destinations in England by English residents. It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred due to concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position. There was also a change in survey methodology in 2000, though figures for 1997-99 have been reworked to allow comparisons with the later data.

Tourism: Marketing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total expenditure from the public purse was on promoting England as a tourist destination *(a)* domestically and *(b)* internationally in each year since 1997. [148540]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain has been responsible for the marketing of England as a tourist destination since April 2003, and has been advised in this by the England Marketing Advisory Board. Until the beginning of 2005-06, VisitBritain marketed England only within Britain. Under the new Strategy agreed by the Department and the devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in March 2005, VisitBritain now additionally markets England as a tourist destination in France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the Republic of Ireland.

VisitBritain's spending on marketing England since 2003

	Marketing within Britain	*£ million International marketing*
2003-04	12.251	0
2004-05	13.163	0
2005-06	13.062	1.228
2006-07	12.458	1.295

Before 2003, England was marketed internationally by the British Tourist Authority as part of its remit to promote and market the whole of Britain. The expenditure incurred cannot be broken down by the constituent nations of Britain.

These figures do not include public spending by the Regional Development Agencies, the Regional Tourist Boards, and other bodies, seeking to promote particular areas of England in domestic and international markets.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of VisitBritain's overseas marketing budget was used to promote tourism to *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2003. [148827]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain does not disaggregate its spending on marketing Britain by country or territory. Its marketing campaigns are based around market sectors or themes, such as heritage or sport, and usually involve the promotion of many locations throughout Britain.

However, VisitBritain has marketed England in Germany, France, the Netherlands, and the Republic of Ireland since 2005, with the agreement of the devolved Administrations of Scotland and Wales. Spending for that purpose, from VisitBritain's budget was as follows:

2005-06: £1.2 million;

2006-07: £1.3 million.

VisitBritain's marketing budget does not cover Northern Ireland, for which Tourism Ireland is responsible.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Amphetamines: Prosecutions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for manufacturing methylamphetamine in the past five years; and how many such cases involved the use of over-the-counter medicines for this purpose. [148034]

Mr. Coaker: Prior to 18 January 2007, methylamphetamine production formed part of the offence "Production or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug: Amphetamine" under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It was not possible to separately identify the production of methylamphetamine or its constituent parts from other types of amphetamine within this offence, nor was it possible to identify which cases involved the use of over-the-counter medicines for this purpose.

Following methylamphetamine's reclassification from a class B drug to a class A drug, "Production of or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug: Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)" became a new offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2006, section 4(2).

Information on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 sec. 4(2) [Class 'B' Drug] for the offence of "Production or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug: Amphetamine, in England and Wales for the years 2001 to 2005" can be found in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 sec. 4(2) [Class 'B' Drug], for the offence of production or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug: Amphetamine, in England and Wales for the years 2001-05[1, 2, 3]

	Number
Prosecuted	
2001	8
2002	12
2003	10
2004	5
2005	13
Found guilty	
2001	4
2002	3
2003	10
2004	7
2005	7

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Prior to 18 January 2007 the production of Methamphetamine was not a separate offence. The following is the new Act and offence description for Methylamphetamine offences:
The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Production of or being concerned in the production of [Class 'A' Drug] Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meths) s.4(2) Production of or being concerned in the production of a controlled drug Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meth).

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Asylum

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at which point of the asylum process her Department considers a decision on an asylum claim to be final. [148531]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* A decision on an asylum claim is final when it has been served. All asylum decisions can be reviewed by the courts on appeal or judicial review.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department considers an individual who has made a fresh asylum claim to be an asylum seeker with an active case. [148532]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Where an individual's original asylum claim has been refused, and they provide the Secretary of State with further submissions on that claim, there are four possible outcomes. The Border and Immigration Agency may:

grant asylum;

recognise there is a fresh claim, against which refusal there is a right of appeal;

recognise there is a fresh claim, but certify that claim, the result of which is no right of appeal; or

refuse to accept the submissions as a fresh claim and reject as further representations, against which there is no right of appeal.

Nobody will be removed before their further submissions have been categorised into one of the above outcomes. To this extent, their case is still 'active'. A failed asylum seeker does not, however, regain asylum seeker 'status' (e.g. for the purposes of support) just because they have put in further submissions. They remain a failed asylum seeker until such time as the Border and Immigration Agency, or the courts, find their further submissions to be significant.

Asylum: Assisted Voluntary Return Schemes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her projection is of the numbers who will take assisted voluntary return packages to their home country in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [148358]

Mr. Byrne: Projected numbers of those who will take assisted voluntary return packages to their home county in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 are not available.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people returned to their home country under the assisted voluntary return system in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004. [148359]

Mr. Byrne: Information on removals is published annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Finance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments have been made to each local authority from the *(a)* Challenge Fund for Refugees and *(b)* Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers Fund in each year since these funds were established. [146001]

Mr. Byrne: The information is shown in the following tables.

Payments made to local authorities from the challenge fund

Local authority	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Manchester City Council	73,163.00	69,079.00	—	77,650.00	—	—
Kent County Council	—	13,984.00	14,404.00	—	—	—
North Tyneside Council	—	26,796.00	—	—	—	—
Newcastle City Council	—	—	31,800.00	—	—	—
Liverpool City Council	—	—	64,714.00	—	—	—
Cardiff City Council	—	—	51,272.00	48,063.00	—	—
Leicestershire City Council	—	—	—	21,500.00	36,158.00	—
Northamptonshire County Council	—	—	—	28,000.00	—	—
Stoke on Trent City Council	—	—	—	34,050.00	—	—
Portsmouth City Council	—	—	—	—	33,095.00	—
Middlesbrough Council	—	—	—	—	—	12,320.00
London Borough of Brent	—	—	—	—	—	39,500.00
Total	73,163.00	109,859.00	162,190.00	209,268.00	69,253.00	51,820.00

Payments made to local authorities from the purposeful activities for asylum seekers fund

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	£ *2006-07*
Leicestershire County Council	2,440.00	2,850.00	27,550.00	—	—
Nottingham City Council	3,537.00	7,207.00	35,000.00	—	—
	7,384.00	—	—	—	—
London Borough of Islington	3,582.00	3,475.00	—	—	—
	2,778.06	—	—	—	—
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	5,265.00	5,260.00	—	—	—
London Borough of Greenwich	27,185.00	—	—	—	—
London Borough of Lewisham	20,000.00	—	—	—	—
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	5,380.00	—	—	—	—
London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	4,009.00	12,636.40	—	—	—
Middlesbrough Council	3,500.00	—	—	—	—
Newcastle City Council	3,300.00	24,756.00	24,880.00	—	—
South Tyneside Council	1,350.00	—	—	—	—
Gateshead Council	12,000.00	—	—	—	—
Manchester City Council	11,350.00	10,000.00	—	—	—
Stoke on Trent City Council	4,000.00	—	—	8,189.80	—
Rotherham Borough Council	7,000.00	—	7,260.00	—	—
Leeds City Council	21,582.00	—	—	—	—
Wakefield Council	14,534.00	—	—	—	—
West Berkshire Council	—	8,500.00	—	—	—
Newport City Council	—	6,230.00	—	—	—
Birmingham City Council	—	575.00	—	—	—
Solihull Council	—	968.00	—	—	—
Sheffield City Council	—	36,854.00	—	—	—
Coventry City Council	—	—	19,582.00	—	—
North Tyneside Council	—	—	—	10,440.00	—
	—	—	—	9,590.00	—
Cambridgeshire County Council	—	—	—	—	28,900.00
Total	160,176.00	119,311.40	114,272.00	28,219.80	28,900.00

Community Support Officers

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England have been transferred from the original neighbourhood team to which they were recruited (i) to another neighbourhood team within their respective area and (ii) to a team outside their respective area. [147183]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not centrally collected. The deployment of police community support officers is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

Community Support Officers: Police

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who were recruited as police community support officers in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England have

subsequently taken up positions as police officers, broken down by the period in which they were originally recruited. [147185]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally as part of the police personnel statistics series.

Community Support Officers: Recruitment

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were recruited in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England during the period (i) January to June 2006, (ii) July to December 2006 and (iii) January to June 2007; and how many officers recruited during each period are still in post. [147184]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data on police community support officer recruits are not available. Data for 2006-07 will be made available after the publication of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2007", due for release on 26 July 2007.

Information relating to the number of police community support officer recruits still in post is not collected centrally as part of the police personnel statistics series.

Departments: Council of Europe Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings Ministers from her Department have had with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in the last 12 months; and what matters were discussed. [148530]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Home Office Ministers have had no meetings with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in the last 12 months. There was a Ministerial meeting of the Group on 27-28 November 2006 which I was unable to attend, but at which the United Kingdom was represented by our Ambassador to the Council of Europe and a Home Office official. The meeting endorsed a programme of work for experts in the field for the period 2007-10 in furtherance of the Group's core mission of contributing to the development of multidisciplinary, innovative, effective and evidence-based drug policies in Council of Europe member states, in particular in the areas of prevention, treatment, criminal justice, research, ethics and co-operation between operational staff at airports.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which her Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148022]

Mr. Byrne: The cost of completed projects is £129.80 million. The cost of projects under way is projected to be £2,058.24 million including costs associated with the Home Office's headquarters building where the construction phase of the project was completed in 2005.

These figures are the sum of the unitary charge payments made over the course of the projects, where any future payments are projections conditional on the performance of the private sector contractor involved.

The payments cover more than just the repayment of the capital value of the projects and include costs of service provision, capital repayments and inflation.

Further details of the individual PFI projects can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what incentives she has considered to encourage staff in her Department to use public transport. [148801]

Mr. Byrne: It is Home Office policy to avoid staff travel wherever possible by the use of systems such as videoconferencing or teleconferencing or by encouraging home working. However where travel is necessary such as for commuting staff are encouraged to take up interest-free loans for season tickets. The use of public transport for duty travel is encouraged by restricting on site car parking, and making use of travel websites for information services and to simplify ticketing arrangements. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes the use of public transport impractical for staff, car sharing is encouraged.

Driving Under Influence: Screening

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether roadside drug-screening devices will be available for use by police forces within the next three years. [148554]

Mr. Coaker: We hope to publish the Guide to Type Approval of Drug Testing Devices by September 2007. The availability of devices will then depend largely on how quickly manufacturers prepare devices in accordance with the specification given and submit them for approval, how they perform in the necessary operational and laboratory tests and how soon after approval the manufacturers make them commercially available.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the timescale for type-approval of roadside drug-screening devices. [148564]

Mr. Coaker: Following detailed and extensive work on the preparation of a suitable device specification, we hope to publish a Guide to the Type Approval of Drug Screening Devices by September 2007. It will then be for manufacturers to prepare devices in accordance with that specification and submit them for type approval. Progress will then depend on how well the

devices perform in the necessary operational and laboratory tests and how quickly and appropriately manufacturers respond to any problems or queries that arise, if there are no difficulties, a typical timescale for the type approval process might be around six months.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in type-approving roadside drug-screening devices. [148574]

Mr. Coaker: The Forensic Science Service and Home Office Scientific Development Branch, with outside experts, have been developing a specification for a device. Following extensive consultation, we hope to publish a Guide to the Type Approval of Drug Screening devices by September 2007. It will then be for manufacturers to prepare devices in accordance with the specification and submit them to the type approval process.

Extradition

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times an European arrest warrant has been used to extradite foreign nationals back to the United Kingdom for prosecution. [147140]

Meg Hillier: Since 1 January 2004 when the European arrest warrant procedure entered into force in the United Kingdom, ninety four foreign nationals have been arrested as a result of European arrest warrants (part 3 warrants) issued by the UK. 74 of these have been surrendered to the UK. These figures comprise both those sought for prosecution and those who have already been convicted.

Identity Cards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on progress with the national identity card scheme. [148012]

Meg Hillier: The Government remain committed to the introduction of the national identity scheme.

ID cards are essential in combating identity fraud and illegal immigration and in disrupting organised crime and the continued threat of terrorism.

Illegal Immigrants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers were granted leave to remain in the UK as a result of amnesties in each of the last 10 years. [147242]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no amnesties in the last 10 years for people who have no legal basis for stay in the United Kingdom.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overstayers there have been in the UK since 1997, broken down by estimated period of overstay. [147688]

Mr. Byrne: As the former Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. The Home Secretary has set a clear goal of reintroducing systems to count everyone in and out of Britain. The majority of passengers will be checked in and out of the United Kingdom by 2009.

Immigration: Doctors

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many qualified medical doctors have been granted permission to remain in the United Kingdom under the Fresh Talent scheme following qualification under an HND, degree level or Masters or Doctoral course in England and Wales. [147940]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Passports: Photographs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what reasons photographs accompanying passport applications may be rejected; and what proportion have been rejected for each reason in the last 12 months; [148342]

(2) what proportion of photographs were rejected for passport applications in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnic background and *(c)* disability status of applicant. [148343]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) collate photo rejections under 47 different headings. The possible reasons for rejection reflect the standards set out in the guidance in the passport application pack. These standards are designed to ensure that when the photograph is scanned onto the passport system a good quality facial biometric is captured.

The most common reasons for rejections are not looking straight at the camera (7.5 per cent. of all rejections), failing to adopt a neutral expression (around 12.5 per cent.), and where the eyes are obscured (17.5 per cent.).

Because of the way in which this data is stored it is not possible to provide a monthly breakdown of all reasons for rejection without incurring disproportionate cost.

Reject rates have settled at around 4-5 per cent. for all applications since the revisions to the standard announced at the end of 2005. The IPS do not keep separate statistics by ethnicity or disability, but are able to waive requirements where a customer is unable to meet them due to disability. There have not been any significant complaints about the current standards impacting unfavourably on disabled or ethnic minority customers, and a wide consultation process was carried out during the formulation of the standards.

Separate statistics are kept for children aged five and under. Photographs for children of this age only need to be a good likeness, with a clear image of the child.

Rejection rates for these applications average around 2.5 to 3 per cent. Around 30 per cent. of these are rejected due to the photograph being too light, and the IPS continues to work with the photographic industry to ensure they are able to provide the public with acceptable photographs.

Safety Belts: Children

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement campaigns have been carried out on child car seats following the introduction of new child car seat legislation since 18 September 2006; and what level of compliance has been achieved. [148565]

Mr. Coaker: Enforcement of the new legislation is an operational matter for the police. The information requested is not collected centrally.

Compliance with the new legislation has been encouraged by an extensive Department for Transport advertising campaign costing around £600,000. This offered advice to parents on how the new measures affect them and also on what is needed to comply with the law. The campaign included coverage on national television and radio, in parenting magazines and on-line, as well as the distribution of 3.5 million items of literature.

It is too early to provide meaningful information on what level of compliance has been achieved following the introduction of the new legislation on 18 September 2006. A survey in October 2006, available at http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/childseats/rates.htm did however compare the observed wearing rates for child restraints with the previous three surveys. This does show an increase since the April survey.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 *(a)* companies and *(b)* trades have provided the largest number of apprenticeships. [148211]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) does not hold data on all employers that recruit apprentices as contracts may be with a training provider which in turn has arrangements with employers. However information is available on the 10 employers who hold the largest contracts directly with the LSC for their apprenticeship funded provision—this is shown in table 1.

Table 2 shows the 10 sectors that offer the largest number of apprenticeships and the numbers of young people in learning in those sectors in June 2007.

Table 1

Employer	*Total in learning (at June 2007)*
Directorate of Educational and Training Services (Army)	5,759
Royal Air Force	2,347
Naval Recruiting and Training Agency	2,320
Carillion Construction Limited	1,682
TUI UK Limited	717
BAE Systems plc	633
Vodafone UK Limited	449
British Gas Services Limited	413
Land Rover	347
The Football Association Premier League Limited	338
Total	15,004

Table 2

A26 code	*Sector framework*	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*
116	Construction	4,690	21,414	26,104
106	Engineering	15,411	8,295	23,706
217	Hairdressing	3,853	17,911	21,764
105	Electrotechnical	15,353	1,233	16,586
104	Children's Care Learning and Development	7,778	7,863	15,651
102	Business Administration	4,687	10,112	14,799
220	Hospitality and Catering	4,007	10,360	14,367
263	Customer Service	4,225	9,997	14,222
328	Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	3,110	8,005	11,115
117	Plumbing	4,746	5,076	9,822

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were not completed in the last year for which figures were available; what the principal categories of reasons for non-completion were; what percentage of cases fell within each category; and what total financial cost was associated with non-completion of apprenticeships. [148226]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) uses individual learner level data to calculate overall apprenticeship framework achievement rates. Over the past few years the framework achievement rates have increased dramatically from 24 per cent. in 2001-02 to 59 per cent. so far in 2006-07. Framework completion relates to achievement of elements—NVQ, technical certificate, key skills and employer rights and responsibilities. Apprentices who do not achieve all elements are not counted as full achievements but may well have completed one or more of the components including a vocational qualification. The LSC does not collect data on all the reasons for non-completion, or circumstances of partial completion, of full apprenticeship frameworks.

Estimates of the cost of non-completion, or partial completion, of apprenticeship frameworks could only be obtained by analysis of individual learner data and at disproportionate cost.

Apprentices: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the variable unit cost is of providing an *(a)* level one and *(b)* level two apprenticeship course; [148216]

(2) what the average unit cost of providing apprenticeship training is in each region. [148210]

Mr. Lammy: There are currently no Level 1 apprenticeships, only Level 2 and 3. The funding of apprenticeships is based on national rates for each sector framework The published rates for the apprenticeship programme are detailed in the Requirements for Funding for Work Based Learning 2006-07. The link to the document is as follows,

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/LSC/2006/funding/streams/nat-requirementsforfundingwblforyoungpeople200607-re-jul2006.pdf

A hard copy will be placed in the Library.

Apprenticeship rates vary on a sector framework basis and do not vary by region of the LSC. Providers may be entitled to a disadvantage uplift based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 and calculated on their historic recruitment patterns. The published national rates for apprenticeships are contained within the 'Requirements for Funding for Work Based Learning 2006-07' document. The link to the publication is as provided previously.

Biotechnology: Research

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which research projects his Department has conducted on agricultural biotechnology in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost was in each case. [146079]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* Since its commencement in 2004, the DTI's Technology Programme has offered support for research in agricultural biotechnology for one project, which is called "Contained Agronomy for the Production of Plant Based Pharmaceuticals". The project is forecasting project costs of £787,000 and has been offered support of £393,000.

Two research projects that are considered to fall into the definition of agricultural biotechnology were directly funded by the DTI as opposed to the Research Councils, in the past 10 years.

A project under the LINK scheme ran between 1999 and 2004 on "Phytoremediation: an integrated approach to the decontamination of polluted soils". The grant awarded by the Department was £133,000.

In 2004 the DTI moved support for research projects into the Technology Programme. Since its commencement in 2004 the Programme has offered support for one project in this area, "Contained Agronomy for the Production of Plant Based Pharmaceuticals". The grant awarded by the Department was £394,000 for a three-year project that started in 2005.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total costs associated with the division of *(a)* staff, *(b)* office space, *(c)* office equipment and *(d)* furnishings are expected to be as a consequence of the division of the Department for Education and Skills. [148227]

Mr. Denham: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the role of his Department in providing training for end-of-service military personnel. [148201]

Mr. Lammy: Each year some 18,000 people will leave the armed forces to work in UK civilian companies.

This Department's Skills strategy particularly aims to improve level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs at A*-C) and literacy, language and numeracy skills for all adults. DIUS is working to increase the number of adults succeeding in national qualifications, while reducing barriers to learning.

DIUS works closely with the armed forces on its further education strategy (and also the army basic skills programme). The armed forces provide opportunities for training for all, no matter what was achieved in school or college. The literacy and numeracy standards of all recruits are assessed and those identified with poor skills for life are then given systematic support, so that before they start their vocational training, the minimum standard that all are operating at, is entry level 3 in numeracy and literacy. That support is contextualised, making learning applicable to the workplace, with the target that all have gained at least level 1 qualifications in literacy and numeracy (equivalent to GCSE level at D-G) within four years of joining, with opportunities to then gain vocational qualifications at level 2.

The armed forces train their personnel, with support from DIUS, so that they have transferable skills and nationally recognised vocational qualifications, to enable them to take up a civilian career when they leave service. The armed forces is one of the largest deliverers of apprenticeships in the country, in the past year some 5,500 apprenticeships, nearly 2,500 advanced apprenticeships and over 7,500 stand-alone NVQ or other level 2 qualifications were completed by armed forces personnel. In addition, assistance with resettlement is provided, to ensure personnel are fully prepared for civilian life.

Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees there are in his Department, broken down by pay grade. [147877]

Mr. Denham: The Department has a total of 1,854 staff. Prior to the recent machinery of government changes, these staff were employed by different Government Departments, which had their own pay grades below the senior civil service. The following breakdown therefore indicates roughly equivalent grades:

	Number
AA	92
AO	381
EO	350
HEO	325
SEO	262

	Number
G7	315
G6	50
SCS	79
Total	1,854

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many special advisers are employed by his Department. [147879]

Mr. Denham: At this time none, but consideration is being given to the employment of up to two advisers.

Departments: Prisons

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the role of his Department in the prison sector. [148199]

Mr. Lammy: Employment is known to be a key factor in helping to reduce re-offending. The principal role for my Department is to provide an effective learning and skills service for prisoners, as well as those serving sentences in the community, to improve their skills and employability, and increase their motivation to turn away from crime to become more productive members of society. We will do this by delivering the programme of reform set out in 'Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps' (December 2006).

Seizing new, global opportunities requires a world-class skills base, not only through the expansion of high-end graduate skills but also by raising the skills of the wider adult workforce, including those currently unskilled. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will lead the work to ensure that the nation has the skilled workforce it needs to compete in the global economy, and that includes developing the skills of those in the prison sector, including the workforce.

Departments: Property

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which properties his Department occupies. [147878]

Mr. Denham: The Department, including Executive agencies and trading funds, but not including non-departmental public bodies, occupies the following buildings:

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London
Caxton House, Tothill Street, London
Moorfoot, Sheffield
Castle View House, Runcorn
1 Victoria Street, London
151 Buckingham Palace Road, London
Mowden Hall, Darlington
Building 84, Stanton Avenue, Teddington, Middlesex
Concept House, Cardiff Road, Newport

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148802]

Mr. Lammy: The main incentive the Department offers are interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, free cycle parking with showers available for staff to use before starting work, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions. Where the location or nature of the work makes public transport use impractical for staff, car sharing and the use of low emission vehicles is encouraged.

English Language: Education

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in developing guidance for providers of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) on the financial evidence that will need to be provided by learners to get fee remission for ESOL courses. [148581]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding guidance for 2007-08 outlines the position on ESOL funding and details the categories of learners who are entitled to fee remission. This is available on the LSC website at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/Furthereducation/Funding_Guidance_for_Further_Education_in_200708.htm.

In addition, the LSC has recently published guidance on use of the additional £4.6 million in 2007-08 to the Learner Support Hardship Fund which will support vulnerable learners, including spouses and low-paid workers who may need support to pay their ESOL fees. This is available at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-discretionarv-lsc-guidance-0708.pdf.

Higher Education

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the procedure is for granting university status; and how many applications have been approved in the last 12 months. [149281]

Bill Rammell: Institutions must apply to the Privy Council in order to be granted a university title. The Privy Council will then seek advice from the Department who will consider whether an institution meets its criteria for university title; consulting the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and the Higher Education Funding Council for England as necessary. The Department's criteria for university title are that an institution must:

(a) have been granted powers to award taught degrees under the 2004 criteria;

(b) normally have at least 4,000 full time equivalent higher education students, of whom at least 3,000 are registered on degree level courses (including foundation degree programmes); and

(c) be able to demonstrate that it has regard to the principles of good governance as are relevant to its sector.

In the last 12 months, the Privy Council has approved three applications for university title: Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, St. Martin's College and York St. John University College.

Literacy: Prisoners

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of prisoners were recorded as illiterate over the last 10 years. [148113]

Mr. Lammy: The numbers and proportion of prisoners whose reading was assessed at reception as being below Level 1, which could be used as a proxy for functionally illiteracy, is recorded as follows:

Prisoners whose reading was assessed as below level 1:

	Number	*Proportion (%)*
1997-98	39,643	27.5
1998-99	47,298	26.8
1999-2000	89,623	30.5
2000-01	89,623	30.9
2001-02	94,248	34.1
2002-03	96,589	36.9

The information is taken from the 'Prison Statistics for England and Wales', an annual publication produced by the Home Office until 2003.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Agriculture

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of farmers were declared bankrupt in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [147429]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 July 2007]:* The closest available estimates for bankruptcies among farmers are the numbers of bankruptcy orders made under the category "agriculture and horticulture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC). The following table provides the figures for England and Wales, which are available from 1990 onwards.

Bankruptcies in Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the devolved administrations and, while total bankruptcies could be provided, a breakdown by industry is not available.

Bankruptcy statistics are classified regionally according to the locations and areas of responsibility of official receivers' (OR's) offices, each of which covers a number of courts having insolvency jurisdiction, and are not directly comparable with administrative geographies. Statistics broken down by both industry and regionally are not readily available for the period requested.

The Insolvency Trade Classification is not consistent with the Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC2003) which is used to classify businesses, nor is the regional classification in use consistent with standard administrative geographies such as counties and government office regions (GORs). It is not, therefore, possible to provide reliable estimates of the proportions of farmers becoming bankrupt, either at the regional or national level.

Bankruptcy orders in England and Wales in the agriculture sector (E and W), January 1990 to September 2006

	Number
1990	198
1991	266
1992	313
1993	277
1994	231
1995	218
1996	168
1997	155
1998	157
1999	183
2000	173
2001	183
2002	132
2003	151
2004	204
2005	195
2006[1]	129

[1] Up to September. Figures from October 2006 are not available due to development work to update the classification of new cases to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003.

Note:
Figures are not available prior to January 1990.

Business Council for Britain

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expenses members of the new Business Council for Britain will be able to claim. [147884]

Mr. Timms: Members of the Business Council will not be paid, but the Department will of course be prepared to meet such reasonable expenses directly related to their contribution to the Council as members wish to claim.

Company Liquidations

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many directors of phoenix companies were disqualified in each year from 2005; and how many of these disqualifications involved directors not undertaking to act as a director voluntarily. [146311]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* No separate statistics are maintained by the Insolvency Service for disqualification action taken against directors of companies, which might fall within the description of "phoenix" companies. Many successor companies to failed companies are formed as a result of legitimate

arrangements between the directors and the office holder whereby assets are transferred at proper values. The conduct of the directors is only likely to be called into question where assets have been transferred from the insolvent company to the new company at an undervalue, where the directors have caused the successor company to trade under a name which is for them prohibited by virtue of section 216 Insolvency Act 1986 or where the successor company has failed for the same reasons as its predecessor. Although statistics are not kept to identify the numbers of disqualification orders or disqualification undertakings where the matters of unfitness include one or more of the elements referred to above the Insolvency Service records show that one or more of those matters of unfitness were alleged in seven cases for which disqualification proceedings were authorised in the year to 31 March 2006 and in 18 cases in the year to 31 March 2007.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many calls have been received on phoenix companies by the enforcement hotline in each year since 2005; and how many of these calls were referred for investigation. [146312]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* No separate statistics are maintained by the hotline team for "phoenix" complaints. It is likely that complaints to the hotline regarding so called "phoenix companies" will be recorded as a complaint under section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 (reuse of a prohibited name after a certain type of insolvency). It is possible that section 216 may also apply to new businesses run by directors, which are not successor companies to the insolvent company and which cannot therefore be regarded as "phoenix companies". The number of complaints received by the hotline which specifically relate to section 216 is seven for the period from August 2005 to March 2006, eight for the year to March 2007 and five so far for the current year. Of those one has been referred to Legal Services Division for possible prosecution action.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many directors of companies have been prosecuted for offences relating to phoenix operations. [146313]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* There is no precise legal definition of a "phoenix" company but it is normally thought of as one formed by the directors of a failed company to take over the business and some or all of the assets of the failed company but without any of its liabilities. The only criminal offence specially related to Phoenix operations is where the directors have caused the successor company to trade under a name which is for them prohibited by virtue of section 216 Insolvency Act 1986.

Statistics for convictions under section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 have only been published since the year 2005-06. The convictions are:

	Number
2005-06	19
2006-07	21

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, (e) involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and (f) involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146088]

Mr. Thomas: Officials throughout the former Department of Trade and Industry were involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business totalled around 200. In addition, there are a number of Seconded National Experts working on priority policy areas in the European Commission in Brussels, usually around a dozen individuals. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to replace the banners in the window of his Department's building at 1 Victoria Street. [148925]

Mr. McFadden: I shall be considering how best to convey the new Department's aims and objectives to the business community and wider public. This includes the display material in the Department's offices.

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last year to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147339]

Mr. Thomas: 283 members of staff in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (8.2 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the Civil Service Pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what analysis his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147343]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has not made any central analysis of the number of staff using public transport to commute. However there is very limited availability of car parking spaces across the Department's estate and therefore the vast majority of staff will use public transport to travel to work.

Disabled: Concessions

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people who retired from the coal industry due to ill health under the age of 50 years have been informed they are not eligible for concessionary coal. [148719]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department does not retain this type of information.

Eligibility for an entitlement to concessionary fuel is specified in Fuel Agreements, which have been agreed with the Mining Unions and form part of an employee's terms and conditions of employment.

The award is made by the employer, when the miner leaves employment and no information is held by Government on how many miners, on leaving employment, have not met the criteria specified in the Fuel Agreements.

Disclosure of Information

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many whistleblowers in the public services have sought redress from their employer using the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. [147950]

Mr. McFadden: Workers who believe they have been unfairly dismissed or otherwise detrimentally treated for whistleblowing can complain to an employment tribunal under the 1998 Act. Numbers of claims accepted by the tribunals since the Act came into force in 1999 where PIDA was at least one of the grounds cited are shown in the table.

	Claims
1999-2000	165
2000-01	414
2001-02	534
2002-03	665
2003-04	758
2004-05	872
2005-06	1,037
2006-07	1,356
Total	5,801

Separate records are not maintained for claims made by workers in the public services.

Employment Act 2002 (Dispute Resolution) Regulations

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to amend or repeal the Employment Act 2002 (Dispute Resolution) Regulations. [148099]

Mr. McFadden: The consultation paper "Resolving disputes in the workplace", published on 21 March 2007, invited views on whether the Regulations should be repealed. My Department's plans on the way forward will be set out in our response to that consultation which will be published in due course.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met representatives of the recruitment industry. [148460]

Mr. McFadden: Last month, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) met industry representatives at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) "One In A Million Award" event, where he gave the keynote speech.

I look forward to meeting industry representatives shortly.

Employment Agencies: Temporary Employment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received in the last 12 months from representatives of the recruitment industry on the law on temporary and agency workers; and if he will make a statement. [148461]

Mr. McFadden: BERR officials are in regular contact with representatives of the recruitment industry and have received a number of representations on the law regarding temporary and agency workers. Most recently, BERR has received representations from the industry in response to the recent consultation on measures to protect vulnerable agency workers.

My officials are currently analysing responses to this consultation, including those from the recruitment industry.

Employment Dispute Resolution Review

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department expects to respond to the Gibbons review. [148096]

Mr. McFadden: The Government responded to the Gibbons review by publishing a consultation paper, "Resolving disputes in the workplace" (URN 07/734), on 21 March 2007. Copies were placed in the Libraries of the House. The consultation closed on 20 June 2007 and BERR will publish a response to the consultation in due course.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to publish the evidence considered by the Gibbons Review. [148097]

Mr. McFadden: Michael Gibbons summarised the evidence he had considered in his report published on 21 March 2007. His review was independent of Government and did not invite formal submissions of evidence.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library all representations received on the Gibbons Review. [148101]

Mr. McFadden: Responses received to the Government's consultation on the Gibbons review will be made publicly available in the usual way, except where confidentiality has been requested.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has estimated the effect on the costs of *(a)* employees, *(b)* employers and *(c)* the Government of implementing the recommendations of the Gibbons Review. [148098]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of the impact of implementing the Gibbons review were set out in the partial regulatory impact assessment published in the consultation paper "Resolving disputes in the workplace" on 21 March 2007. Copies of the paper were placed in the Libraries of the House.

Enterprise Act 2002: Insolvency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of individual voluntary arrangements were made *(a)* pre-bankruptcy and *(b)* post-bankruptcy in each year since the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002. [148966]

Mr. McFadden: The personal insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force on 1 April 2004.

	Post-bankruptcy IVAs as a percentage of all IVAs	*Pre-bankruptcy IVAs as a percentage of all IVAs*
2004-05	1.16	98.84
2005-06	0.46	99.54
2006-07	0.15	99.85

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [148967]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002 insolvency provisions, overseen by an Evaluation Group of independent stakeholders.

The evaluation includes both quantitative and qualitative data collected from various sources over a four-year period, including five pieces of independent academic research and internal analyses of Insolvency Service data. In order to better understand the evaluation data, benchmark information was obtained regarding the operation and effect of the pre-existing legislation.

Full details of the evaluation are set out in the minutes of the Evaluation Group, the evaluation planning papers, interim evaluation reports, academic research reports and internal analyses, available on the Insolvency Service website:

www.insolvency.gov.uk

The final evaluation report on the corporate insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 is due to be published in summer 2007, and the final evaluation report on the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 is due to be published in autumn 2007.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcy orders have been made in each year since the implementation of the Enterprise Act 2002. [148968]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders in England and Wales from April 2004, when the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force.

Bankruptcy orders in England and Wales, seasonally adjusted

	Bankruptcy orders
2004-05	38,130
2005-06	52,327
2006-07	64,488

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* fast-track voluntary arrangements and *(b)* post-bankruptcy individual voluntary arrangements were made in each year since the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002. [147076]

Mr. McFadden: The individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force on 1 April 2004.

	Fast track voluntary arrangements	*Total number of post-bankruptcy IVAs*
2004-05	8	135
2005-06	9	114
2006-07	3	71

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has assessed the volume of *(a)* individual voluntary arrangements and *(b)* fast-track voluntary arrangements resulting from the implementation of the Enterprise Act 2002's insolvency provisions prior to its enactment. [148746]

Mr. McFadden: There are no statistics for the number of FTVAs for the period before the Enterprise Act was enacted as they were introduced by that Act. Insolvency statistics are produced quarterly. IVA numbers for the five calendar years prior to the enactment of the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act and for the period subsequent to enactment are as follows:

	Number of IVAs
2000	7,978
2001	6,298
2002	6,295
2003	7,583
2004	10,752
2005	20,293
2006	44,332

FTVAs were introduced on 1 April 2004. In the year 2004-05 there were five approved FTVAs, for 2005-06 there were 12 and for 2006-07 there were three.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the preliminary conclusions of the Insolvency Service's interim evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002 were in respect of *(a)* post-bankruptcy individual voluntary arrangements and *(b)* fast-track voluntary arrangements. [148747]

Mr. McFadden: The interim evaluation reports on the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 can be accessed on the Insolvency Service website on

www.insolvency.gov.uk

Neither of the interim evaluation reports reach any conclusions about post-bankruptcy IVAs or FTVAs as their main purpose is to inform stakeholders of ongoing work. The evaluation of the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 will be published later this year.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to publish the results of the Insolvency Service's evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [148748]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002 insolvency provisions, overseen by an Evaluation Group of independent stakeholders.

The final evaluation report on the individual insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 is due to be published later this year.

Full details of the evaluation are set out in the minutes of the Evaluation Group, the evaluation planning papers, interim evaluation reports, academic research reports and internal analyses, available on The Insolvency Service website:

www.insolvency.gov.uk

EU Law: Recycling

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the impact on small businesses of registration fees for the distributor take-back scheme of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [148743]

Malcolm Wicks: Valpak Retail WEEE Services Ltd. operates the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS). As part of the Government's desire to keep the costs down for SMEs the DTS registration fees have been tiered, based on the levels of sales of electrical and electronic equipment.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he made an assessment of the *(a)* likely cost to and *(b)* other implications for small businesses of depositing Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment in a distributor collection facility; and the consequences for small businesses as a result. [148745]

Malcolm Wicks: The WEEE regulations do not alter current arrangements regarding businesses, including SMEs gaining access to local authority civic amenity sites and waste transfer stations. Local authorities are not obliged to accept trade waste and a decision on whether to do so is at their discretion.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* other impacts of the implementation of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Regulations and the necessary registration to Valpak on smaller retailers. [148822]

Malcolm Wicks: A full Regulatory Impact Assessment was published alongside the WEEE Regulations and provides an estimate of the costs and benefits of the implementation on smaller retailers. Retailers of electrical and electronic equipment are required to be a member of the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) operated by Valpak Retail WEEE Services Ltd unless they offer in store take-back.

As part of the Government's desire to keep the costs down for SMEs the DTS registration fees have been tiered, based on the levels of sales of electrical and electronic equipment.

Food: Packaging

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with major supermarkets on ensuring that food packaging is user friendly for the *(a)* elderly and *(b)* disabled. [147301]

Mr. Timms: No such discussions have been held.

Industrial Relations: Disputes Procedures

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures his Department has taken to increase the use of mediation in employment disputes. [148100]

Mr. McFadden: BERR funds the work of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) including the provision of conciliation for employment disputes.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the availability of mediation services for employment disputes; and whether his Department plans to increase that availability. [148457]

Mr. McFadden: The Department is aware that mediation is available from a variety of sources including ACAS. The recent consultation, "Resolving disputes in the workplace" sought views on encouraging earlier conciliation in appropriate cases; responses to this will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether guidance published by his Department on employment disputes contains information on local mediation services. [148458]

Mr. McFadden: Guidance published by this Department on employment disputes does not contain information on local mediation services.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department expects to bring forward proposals on the procedure to reform unfair dismissal employment disputes. [148467]

Mr. McFadden: The consultation paper "Resolving disputes in the workplace", published on 21 March 2007, invited views on proposals on procedures for unfair dismissal employment disputes. My Department's plans on the way forward will be set out in our response to this consultation which will be published in due course.

National Grid: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the carbon content of grid electricity is reduced. [148654]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The Government have set out in the Energy White Paper measures aimed at reducing the carbon content of electricity generation. These include:

Strengthening the EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Strengthening the Renewables Obligation

Consulting on civil nuclear power

Launching a competition to demonstrate carbon capture and storage in the UK

Overseas Trade: Taiwan

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of UK *(a)* exports to and *(b)* imports from Taiwan was in each of the last five years. [148362]

Mr. Thomas: The following table shows data for UK trade in goods and services with Taiwan.

	UK exports to Taiwan	*£ million UK imports from Taiwan*
2001	1,165	2,932
2002	1,214	2,564
2003	1,268	2,371
2004	1,446	2,539
2005	1,483	2,440

Source:
Table 9.3, ONS Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2006

Initial estimates for 2006 and revisions for earlier years are expected to be published on 20 July 2007.

Performing Arts: Children

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether children's agencies specialising in theatre, TV and modelling have to register with a Government Department or other body. [148727]

Mr. McFadden: While entertainment agencies do not have to register with a Government Department, they are required to meet the provisions under the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and associated Conduct Regulations. These are designed to protect the interests of those using the services they provide. The Regulations include provisions to prevent agencies supplying unsuitable people to work with the vulnerable, including children.

Children may not work in television, theatre or other similar activities, including modelling, without a performance licence issued by the local authority under the Children and Young Persons Acts 1933 and 1963, as amended. It is however the responsibility of employers, rather than agencies, to ensure that a child is licensed and that the terms of a licence are complied with.

In addition, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which will be implemented from autumn 2008, provides the legislative framework to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

Post Offices

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what opportunities post offices have to expand the range of goods and services they offer. [147218]

Mr. McFadden: The sub-postmasters and mistresses who own and operate 97 per cent. of the 14,000 post offices in the network are private business people. They are free to develop their associated retail businesses and pursue commercial arrangements with whoever they want to so long as the products provided are not in

direct competition with key Post Office products that provide income to support the network.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what new products and services have been developed by the Post Office with the aim of encouraging the recruitment of sub-postmasters. [147220]

Mr. McFadden: The development of new Post Office products and services is an operational matter for the company's management. In recent years Post Office Ltd. has worked hard to introduce new products and services to replace traditional declining markets. Post Office Ltd. is now the largest provider of foreign currency in the UK and the third largest provider of travel insurance. The Post Office is also the UK's fifth largest fixed-line telephone service provider and opened 175,000 Instant Saver Accounts in the product's first year. More products are in the pipeline including a broadband service in partnership with BT.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were carried out at each week of gestation between 18 and 32 weeks in 2006; what the *(a)* age of mother, *(b)* residency of mother, *(c)* grounds for abortion, *(d)* marital status of mother, *(e)* number of previous children and *(f)* number of previous abortions were in each case; and how many and what percentage of those abortions were performed in the (i) public and (ii) private sector. [148108]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is set out in the following tables.

Abortions by age and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006.

	Gestation							
Age	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
Under 20	375	357	262	213	175	168	11	1,561
20 to 24	386	324	280	207	172	121	22	1,512
25 to 29	250	180	176	125	112	98	28	969
30 to 34	165	104	117	113	76	66	43	684
35+	181	146	97	96	81	57	32	690
Total	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	5,416

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0-nine) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-nine) when used with data already published.

Abortions by country of residence and gestation 18 weeks and over1, performed in England and Wales, 2006.

	Gestation							
Country of residence	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
England and Wales	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	5,416
Scotland	11	20	27	20	31	[2]—	[2]—	121
Republic of Ireland	56	28	37	25	15	[2]—	[2]—	180
Other non resident	45	35	28	25	20	[2]—	[2]—	189

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0-9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published.
[2] Suppressed value.

Abortions by grounds and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006.

	Gestation							
Grounds	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
Section 1(1)(a) and other[2]	1,242	1,021	787	573	485	398	0	4,506
Section 1(1)(d)	115	90	145	181	131	112	136[3]	910

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0-9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published.
[2] abortions 24 weeks and over and carried out under sections 1(1)(b), 1(1)(c) and 1(4) of the Abortion Act are included in total 136.
Section 1(1)(a): that the pregnancy has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman or any existing children of her family.
Section 1(1)(b): that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.
Section 1(1)(c): that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated
Section 1(1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.
Section 1(4): that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Abortions by marital status and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006.

	Gestation							
Marital status	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
Single	924	750	625	504	397	349	49	3,598
Married	177	150	154	147	117	99	66	910
Divorced, separated, widowed	34	23	14	[2]—	11	[2]—	[2]—	101
Not known/ not stated	222	188	139	[2]—	91	[2]—	[2]—	807
Total	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	5,416

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0-9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published.
[2] Suppressed value.

Abortions by number of previous live or still births and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006.

	Gestation							
Number of previous live births or stillbirths (over 24 weeks)	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24+*	*Total*
0	730	641	550	445	386	313	64	3,129
1	298	239	186	164	122	103	39	1,151
2	169	118	113	89	64	52	19	624
3 or more	160	113	83	56	44	42	14	512
Total	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	5,416

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 - 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published.

Abortions by number of previous abortions and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006

Number of previous abortions	Gestation 18	19	20	21	22	23	24+	Total
0	961	788	657	586	471	479	23	3,965
1	305	252	220	124	117	—	—	1,129
2 or more	91	71	55	44	28	—	—	322
Total	1,357	1,111	932	754	616	510	136	5,416

[1] Totals are grouped where there are less than 10 (0 - 9) cases, or where a presented value would reveal a total less than 10 (0-9) when used with data already published.

Abortions by purchaser and gestation 18 weeks and over[1], residents, England and Wales, 2006

Percentage

Abortions by purchaser	Gestation 18	19	20	21	22	23	24+
NHS	20	16	20	28	25	25	100
NHS agency	70	75	71	65	62	64	0
Private	9	9	10	7	13	11	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note:
Percentages are rounded and may not add up to 100

Abortion: Access

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure equality of access to NHS abortion services; [148371]

(2) how many women in England waited *(a)* less than a week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* over two weeks but less than four weeks and *(d)* over four weeks between the date they first requested an NHS abortion and the date of the abortion in each of the last five years. [148372]

Dawn Primarolo: We are working to ensure that women have access to abortion services as soon as possible as evidence shows that the risk of complications increases the later the gestation. We have invested £8 million to improve early access and set a standard of a maximum waiting time of three weeks. Primary care trusts' performance in this area is being measured as part of the Healthcare Commission's annual healthcheck.

Waiting times for abortion are not available but we consider that gestation at procedure is a good indicator of waiting times. The latest data for 2006 show that progress is being made to increase early access: 65 per cent. of national health service funded abortions took place at under 10 weeks compared with 51 per cent. in 2002.

Equality of access and more rapid access to abortion services has improved since the introduction of the Sexual Health and HIV Strategy. In 2006, 87 per cent. of abortions were NHS funded, compared with 78 per cent. in 2002. In addition, since 2002 we have collected patients self-reported ethnicity data to monitor access to services by all groups.

Abortion: Counselling

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what counselling is offered to women *(a)* contemplating, *(b)* during and *(c)* after an abortion. [148373]

Dawn Primarolo: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) evidence-based guideline "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion (2004)" gives recommendations to commissioners and service providers on the information to be given to women contemplating an abortion, following an abortion and on women's counselling needs.

The guideline states that professionals involved in abortion services should be equipped to provide women with the information they need, including accurate knowledge about possible complications and sequelae of abortion, in order to give genuinely informed consent. Clinicians caring for women requesting abortion should try to identify those patients who require more support in decision making than can be provided in the routine clinic setting. Facilities for additional support, including access to social services, should be available. Appropriate information and support should be available for those who consider, but do not proceed to, abortion. The guideline also recommends that referral for further counselling should be available for the small minority of women who experience long-term post abortion distress.

A number of organisations produce patient leaflets on this issue including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Family Planning Association.

Abortion: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources have been committed to the improvement of abortion services in 2007-08. [148370]

Dawn Primarolo: Sexual health services are funded through revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services, including abortion services, to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Contracts: Cirencester Hospital

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the second wave independent sector treatment centre contract for Cirencester hospital to be signed. [148412]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is currently anticipated that financial close will be reached on the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Phase 2 independent sector treatment centre scheme, which includes service delivery from Cirencester hospital, in late summer 2007.

Departments: DVDs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the titles of all DVDs produced by his Department in the last 12 months; what the cost to the public purse was of developing each; how many were produced of each; and what the overall cost to the public purse was of each, inclusive of all development, production and distribution costs. [147561]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to list the titles of all DVDs produced by the Department in the last 12 months, as this information is not held centrally. To attempt to gather this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Equality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what cost to the public purse his Department is sponsoring a float in the Pride London parade on 30 June 2007 as stated in his Department's 'Single Equality Scheme 2007-2010', published on 8 June 2007. [147572]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department provided £3,500 towards the costs of the health professionals float at the London Pride 2007 parade.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what cost to the public purse his Department's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group commissioned the taking of *(a)* lesbian, gay and bisexual images and *(b)* transgender images as referred to in his Department's Single Equality Scheme 2007 to 2010, published on 8 June 2007; how he defines (i) lesbian, gay and bisexual images and (ii) transgender images; how many (A) lesbian, gay and bisexual images and (B) transgender images are in the NHS photo library; and if he will make a statement. [147583]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of the work to ensure the national health service photo library includes images representative of the entire community, the Department has added 47 images of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at a cost of £950.00. The images are of individuals who identified themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, and who have consented to their images being used by health and social care organisations health promotion leaflets and campaigns.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the requests made to his Department under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information regulations in the last six months; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) request summary, (iii) request outcome and (iv) reason for exemption, where appropriate, was in each case. [148144]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in his Department are classified as without posts, broken down by directorate in which they are employed. [147570]

Dawn Primarolo: Current position in the Department is:

Directorate	*Number*
Commissioning	4
Research and Development	1
Health Protection, International Health and Scientific Development	3
Finance and Investment	1
Clinical Programmes	2
Healthcare Quality	2
Regional Directors of Public Health	3
Departmental Management	6
Chief Nursing Officer	2
Total	24

Departments: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the payscale is of *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* those employed on a contractual basis in his Department's Commercial Directorate. [148832]

Dawn Primarolo: Civil Servants in the Department are employed on the pay scale listed as follows.

National pay rates

	Minimum	£ *Maximum*
Administrative Officer	14,826	[1]19,449
Executive Officer	18,519	[1]28,112
Higher Executive Officer	23,721	32,627
Senior Executive Officer	29,298	[1]41,991
Grade 7	39,695	[1]56,543
Grade 6	50,014	68,410

[1] 2007-08

The pay ranges and target rates for senior civil servants as at 1 April 2007 are as follows:

Pay band	*Minimum*	*Progression target ratelsalary band mid-point*	£ *Recruitment and performance ceiling*
1	56,100	78,540	116,000
2	81,600	[1]120,800	160,000
3	99,960	[1]152,480	205,000

[1] 2007-08

The Commercial Directorate does not employ contractors but does commission services from a range of organisations. Those services are subject to the bandings listed as follows:

Commercial directorate contractor bandings

Level		
1	Director/Partner	£950 to £1,500
2	Managing Consultant	£750 to £950
3	Senior Consultant	£550 to £750

Commercial directorate contractor bandings

Level		
4	Consultant	£400 to £550
5	Junior Consultant	£250 to £400

Departments: Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions; and what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to encourage more people to make such contributions. [147331]

Dawn Primarolo: 163 members of staff in Department (7.2 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) currently make additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay.

Pension scheme members receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of pension on retirement if the member continues in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including on options for making additional voluntary contributions to boost their pension.

There is also published information on our departmental intranet supporting information provided by the Cabinet Office.

Deciding whether to invest is and must remain an entirely personal decision.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost is of all private finance initiative projects for which his Department has responsibility completed since 1997; and what the projected cost is of such projects commissioned or under way. [148024]

Mr. Bradshaw: A full list of annual unitary payments to the private sector to 2033-34 can be found on the HM Treasury signed deals list at the following address:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

It is not possible to forecast unitary payments at schemes still in procurement as these are not finalised until contract signature stage.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has issued to staff on procedures for working with *(a)* HM Treasury; and *(b)* HM Treasury's Health Spending Team. [146531]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no standing guidance. The Finance Directorate is the normal point of contact for dealings with HM Treasury at official level; and from time to time specific guidance will be given to the Department on the procedures for coordinating particular exercises which may involve, for example, the Ministerial or Permanent Secretary Private Offices.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147327]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has no estimate of the number of staff using public transport to commute.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148818]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department offers interest-free loans for season tickets for travel to work. Use of public transport is encouraged by departmental policies including limited car parking, flexible working, using public transport during the course of travel and making use of travel websites and information services, such as Transport Direct. Staff are also informed about local transport initiatives and promotions.

Departments: Vetting

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent advice he has issued on security checks on *(a)* existing and *(b)* prospective staff in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [148490]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department complies with Cabinet Office guidelines on security checks. The Department's existing staff have undergone the baseline check (formerly basic check) on entering employment with the Civil Service.

The Department undertakes additional checks in accordance with the access levels to particular buildings or work areas, for example:

CTC (counter terrorism check) for employees who require access to the Palace of Westminster.

SC (security clearance) investigation including security services, criminal records and finance check for employees in ministerial private offices and other sensitive work areas.

Advice on security checks for new recruits into the Civil Service has been directly in line with the "HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard: A Good Practice guide to the Pre-Employment Screening of Government Staff and Contractors (July 2006)", effective 1 April 2007. This covers verification of:

Identity;

Employment history;

Nationality; and

Unspent criminal record

The Department is compliant with the baseline personnel security standard.

Engagements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1375W, on engagements, what the evidential basis is for the statement that *(a)* in 1997, 50 per cent. of the NHS estate was older than the NHS itself and *(b)* today, 20 per cent. of the NHS estate is older than the NHS itself. [147496]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) undertakes a quinquennial valuation of the national health service estate. The VOA data from the 1995 survey showed that in that year, 49.5 per cent. of the NHS estate pre-dated 1948.

Information so far provided by the NHS itself, as part of the 2006-07 Estates Returns Information Collection process, shows that the proportion of the estate older than the NHS itself has fallen to 20.4 per cent.

Health Professions Council: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department made to the Health Professions Council prior to April 2004. [147474]

Mr. Bradshaw: According to our records the amount of funding that was provided to the Health Professions Council for its establishment was £3,804,467.38 between 2002 and 2004.

Health Professions: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will request the UK professional healthcare regulators to publish their recent research on the public's access to professional registers. [146203]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand that the Joint Regulators Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) group commissioned, on behalf of the healthcare professional regulatory bodies, a formal piece of research entitled "Making Registers More Usable". The regulatory bodies are using the report's findings to inform the ongoing review and development of the registers. I understand that they expect to make the report available in due course, but no final decision has yet been taken.

Health Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of those attending her Department's Trust, Assurance and Safety event on 5 June 2007 were *(a)* from healthcare professional regulatory bodies, *(b)* lay members of healthcare professional regulatory bodies, *(c)* from public and patient representative organisations, *(d)* members of the public, *(e)* health officials, *(f)* from other health and social care regulators and *(g)* others. [146198]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportions of those who attended the Department's Trust, Assurance and Safety event on 5 June 2007 were as follows:

from healthcare professional regulatory bodies = 14 per cent.

lay members of healthcare professional regulatory bodies = 2 per cent. (which is included in above)

from public and patient representative organisations and members of the public = 5 per cent.

health officials = 34 per cent.

from other health and social care regulators = 39 per cent.

others = 8 per cent.

Health Services: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioners project team has been in existence; and for how long Simon Morgan has been the project lead. [148833]

Mr. Bradshaw: Simon Morgan has been the project lead for the procurement of the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioners since July 2006, at the same time that the project team was established.

Homeopathy: Medical Treatments

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients were treated at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [147929]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the chair of the University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Peter Dixon informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Mobile Phones

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the NHS has issued in the last two years on the use of mobile telephones in hospitals. [148834]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not aware of any specific guidance issued by the national health service in the last two years on the use of mobile phones in hospitals.

However, the Department has issued two sets of good practice guidance to the NHS on the use of mobile phones in healthcare premises. The first set of guidance was issued in August 2006, following a request by the Office of Communications and the second set was issued in May 2007, following a recommendation by the Patient Power review group. The guidance concludes that trusts should consider a range of risks and issues when preparing their own policy on mobile phone usage in hospitals, should issue a clear, written, policy which is easily accessible, with the patient at the forefront and designate and clearly signpost areas where mobile phones can and cannot be used.

Both sets of guidance are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Estatesandfacilitiesmanagement/index.htm

Copies have also been placed in the Library.

Leicestershire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis decisions were made on Leicestershire Primary Care Trust's per capita allocation of funding. [142733]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made on the basis of a weighted capitation formula which directs funding to those areas of greatest need.

The components of the formula are used to weight each primary care trust's (PCT) crude population according to their relative need (age and additional need) for healthcare and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor).

The weighted capitation formula is used to set targets, which then inform allocations. The formula does not determine allocations. The pace of change policy determines actual allocations to PCTs as it reflects decisions on the speed at which PCTs are brought nearer to target through the distribution of extra funds.

Tables showing the revenue allocations for all PCTs in England for the period 2006-07 to 2007-08 and 2003-04 to 2005-06 are available in the Library.

Maternity Services: Midlands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are for increasing the number of neonatal nurses at *(a)* Stoke, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Shrewsbury hospitals over the next two years. [146565]

Dawn Primarolo: Decisions about the size and locations of neonatal networks, including the number of hospitals and the number of neonatal nurses are for local decision and should reflect local need and geography.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to answer the letter to his predecessor of 18 May 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Ameen Hadi. [147549]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was issued on 5 June 2007.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's intervention on 3 July, *Official Report*, column 854, in the Access to the NHS Services debate and following the meeting of the then Minister of State with the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on 16 May 2007, on the proposed independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) at Braintree, when he expects to reply to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on the impact of the ISTC on Broomfield Hospital. [148116]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The Department is in discussion with NHS East of England and Essex Primary Care Trusts with regard to their provision of robust local demand and capacity information, which is currently being finalised, in relation to a proposed Independent Sector Treatment Centre for Braintree. Once available, this information will be considered, along with wider information in relation to the scheme, by the Department and a reply to the points raised by the hon. Member for West Chelmsford will be provided. A copy will be placed in the Library.

National Media Evaluations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 442WA, on national media evaluations, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's national media evaluation reports for January 2006 to June 2006 inclusive; and if he will publish the reports on his Department's website. [147499]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since August 2005, The Department has published its media evaluation reports as part of the Department's wider commitment to Freedom of Information on its website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/Classesofinformation/Communicationsresearch/index.htm

The reports for January 2006-November 2006 were published on the website in June and copies have been placed in the Library.

NHS

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 324, on the NHS, what the *(a)* type and *(b)* location is of each of the 26 different facilities and schemes; when each opened; on what timescale £1.7 billion was invested; and (i) where and (ii) when new staff were provided. [147972]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is as follows.

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Value (£m)*	*Project*	*Operational date*
London	Queen Mary's - Sidcup	15	Reprovision of mental health	30 March 2000
London	Queen Elizabeth hospital - Greenwich	96	Refurbishment of district general hospital	28 February 2001
London	Oxleas - Dartford	11	Mental health reprovision and geriatric day centre	20 December 2001
London	Barnet and chase Farm hospitals	54	Redevelopment of Barnet general hospital	2 March 2002

Strategic health authority	NHS trust	Value (£m)	Project	Operational date
London	North East London Mental Health - Goodmayes hospital	11	Acute mental health	4 March 2002
London	East London and The City	15	Mental health	11 June 2002
London	King's College hospital - Camberwell	76	New hospital block	7 October 2002
London	Bromley hospitals	118	New district general hospital	29 March 2003
London	West Middlesex University hospital - Isleworth	60	Acute rationalisation	16 May 2003
London	St George's Healthcare - Tooting	46	Neurological cardiac	11 September 2003
London	Camden and Islington	26	Adult mental health	1 October 2003
London	West London Mental Health	14	Mental health scheme	20 February 2004
London	Central and North West London	35	Mental health unit at St. Charles hospital	1 September 2004
London	Barnet PCT (Edgware Community)	40	Community hospital	15 March 2005
London	Brent PCT - Willesden	21	New build mental health facility	21 April 2005
London	University College London hospitals	422	Acute rationalisation	12 June 2005
London	West London Mental Health - Broadmoor	36	Dangerous and severe	1 October 2005
London	Guys and St. Thomas	50	Evelina Children's hospital	31 October 2005
London	Hammersmith Hospitals	25	Renal centre	7 November 2005
London	East London and The City Mental Health – Tower Hamlets	34	Mental health scheme	1 December 2005
London	Wandsworth PCT - Roehampton	75	Redevelopment of Queen Mary's Roehampton. Scheme includes specialist rehabilitation and amputee services	10 March 2006
London	North West London hospitals - Willsden	69	Modernisation of Central Middlesex hospital	19 March 2006
London	Newham University hospital	55	Reprovision of acute services from 19th century St. Andrews to Newham General hospital	8 July 2006
London	The Whittington hospital	32	Redevelopment of University hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures	27 November 2006
London	Lewisham hospital	72	Redevelopment of University hospital including the separation of elective and emergency procedures	27 November 2006
London	Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals Romford	238	Rationalisation of two sites onto one adjacent to the existing Oldchurch hospital in Romford	6 December 2006
	Total	1,745		

Information as to when new staff were supplied to each of these schemes is not collected centrally.

NHS: Buildings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* value and *(b)* total gross internal area was in each of the last three financial years of the building stock on the NHS estate built (i) before 1948, (ii) from 1948 to 1954, (iii) from 1955 to 1964, (iv) from 1965 to 1974, (v) from 1975 to 1984, (vi) from 1985 to 1994, (vii) from 1995 to 2004 and (viii) since 2005. [147329]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data requested are in the table.

Year of construction	2003-04 Value (£ million)	2003-04 Gross internal area (sq m)	2004-05 Value (£ million)	2004-05 Gross internal area (sq m)	2005-06 Value (£ million)	2005-06 Gross internal area (sq m)
Pre-1948	3,399	6,612,400	3,622	5,406,460	3,906	5,528,235
From 1948-54	228	493,443	263	436,970	267	373,790
From 1955-64	658	1,446,308	637	1,262,748	758	1,300,259
From 1965-74	2,789	4,959,605	2,701	4,141,706	3,181	4,787,199
From 1975-84	3,030	4,393,995	3,003	4,158,590	3,546	4,579,141
From 1985-94	4,164	4,398,699	4,054	3,629,552	4,719	4,233,166
From 1995-2004	3,909	3,813,554	4,546	3,993,267	4,166	3,786,620
Since 2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,424	1,010,664

n/a = not applicable

The data are as provided by the national health service and have not been amended centrally.

The accuracy and completeness of these data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

NHS: Equality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department's Gender Equity Project had difficulty gaining access to a contact list of England's Directors of Public Health, as stated on page 15 of his Department's Gender Equity Audit Report, published on 8 June 2007; what steps he has taken to ensure his Department has access to an up-to-date contact list of Directors of Public Health; and if he will make a statement. [147556]

Dawn Primarolo: At the time of the project the Department had a list of Regional Public Health Directors but did not have a detailed contact list of all Public Health Directors working in over 302 primary care trusts across England. However, 155 of the 279 invitations were sent directly to Directors of Public Health. Further to the reconfiguration in 2006 a more streamlined approach is now taken when seeking information from national health service organisations. The Chief Executive Bulletin is used to filter down information, and requests for information, to appropriate personnel in the NHS.

NHS: Finance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Capital Challenge Fund Scheme funding allocations are of *(a)* University Hospital, Birmingham NHS Trust, *(b)* Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust and *(c)* University College London NHS Foundation Trust; and if he will make a statement. [147457]

Mr. Bradshaw: For NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs), the Capital Challenge Fund offered a potential addition of £300,000 to public dividend capital. In order to receive the addition funding, NHSFTs had to meet the general rules for entitlement to public dividend capital. University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust drew down new public dividend capital of £300,000 from the Fund. Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust did not draw down any public dividend capital in 2006-07.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons were for the increase in the gross deficit in the primary care trust sector between 2005-06 and 2006-07. [147578]

Mr. Bradshaw: The primary care trust (PCT) sector reported a £633 million gross deficit at the end of 2006-07, which is a £17 million deterioration from the position reported at the end of 2005-06. However, the proportion of PCTs reporting a deficit has reduced from 36 per cent. in 2005-06 to 27 per cent. in 2006-07.

From 2006-07, we have stopped the movement of money round the national health service through brokerage or planned support. As we anticipated, this reform of the NHS financial regime has exposed deficits which might otherwise have remained hidden. As part of the strategy to manage the financial position in their overall economy in 2006-07, strategic health authorities (SHAs) were able to top-slice PCT allocations to create SHA reserves. Although this top-slice may have contributed to the less than 3 per cent. increase in the overall PCT gross deficit, this money is not lost, but held by the SHAs on behalf of the NHS. PCTs are entitled to repayment of their contribution over a reasonable period which should not normally exceed the three-year allocation cycle.

A clearer measure of PCT financial performance is shown by considering the in-year financial position, as this excludes both the Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) adjustments in respect of prior year performance and the impact of the top-slice of PCT allocations. The in-year deficit of the 55 PCTs that recorded a deficit in 2005-06 was £326 million. This underlying position improved significantly to a £348 million in-year surplus by the end of 2006-07.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the long-term plans for the 17 NHS trusts which cannot service and repay loans over an acceptable period, as referred to in his Department's report NHS financial performance quarter four, published on 6 June 2007. [147580]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental officials are working closely with strategic health authorities to identify long-term solutions for these 17 trusts. It is intended that the review work will be concluded in the autumn, and that solutions will be prepared in the context of the operating framework for 2008-09.

NHS: Fires

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fires were reported on the NHS estate as required by FIRECODE policy and principles in each of the last three financial years. [147063]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures in the table have been obtained from information contained in the fire database held by the Department. National health service trusts are required to report all outbreaks of fire to which the fire and rescue service attend.

The figures may not be representative of the actual number of incidents attended by the fire and rescue services as, for example, NHS foundation trusts are not mandated to provide information in relation to fire incidents.

Financial year	*Number of incidents*
2004-05	1,194
2005-06	1,151
2006-07	1,089

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the repair backlog was of the NHS estate, broken down by *(a)* high risk, *(b)* significant risk, *(c)* moderate risk and *(d)* low risk in each of the last three financial years; and what the overall risk adjusted backlog was. [147061]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the levels of backlog maintenance categorised by risk for the national health service estate in England was first collected for 2004-05. The data for financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are in table 1. Figures for the overall risk adjusted backlog are in table 2.

Table 1

£ million

Risk level/definition	*2004-05 Backlog maintenance*	*2005-06 Backlog maintenance*
High risk—urgent priority work needed to prevent catastrophic failure, major disruption to clinical services or deficiencies resulting in serious injury or prosecution.	358.2	329.9
Significant risk—requires short-term expenditure but can be effectively managed to avoid risk to healthcare services or concern to enforcement bodies.	778.2	982.2
Moderate risk—requires close control and monitoring but can be managed in the medium term.	902.1	1,219.4
Low risk—can be addressed through agreed maintenance programmes or through strategic plans.	1,103.2	1,152.1

Table 2

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Overall risk adjusted backlog—defined by a formula which takes into account risk over the remaining life of buildings (as assessed by the Valuation Office Agency).	1,342.4	1,703.8

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources.

The data provided have not been amended centrally and the accuracy and completeness of these data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of building and engineering maintenance on the NHS estate in each of the last three financial years. [147062]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Total building and engineering maintenance costs

	£ million
2003-04	513.6
2004-05	556.1
2005-06	574.8

The costs relate to the amount spent by the national health service in England on the ongoing and day-to-day provision of building and engineering maintenance services.

The data provided have not been amended centrally and the accuracy and completeness of these data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has undertaken any analysis of the NHS's performance relative to other countries' health care systems in the last two years. [147536]

Mr. Bradshaw: Yes. International comparisons of health care performance are analysed in support of policy-making and evaluation when such comparisons may be instructive.

The Department also studies international comparative analysis undertaken by others, such as that carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, The Commonwealth Fund and the Picker Institute.

We have commissioned specific reviews for particular policy issues, including "Health care outside hospital: accessing generalist and specialist care in eight countries, and Capacity planning in health care: reviewing the international experience". These are publicly available at:

www.euro.who.int/Document/E89259.pdf

www.euro.who.int/Document/Obs/EuroObserver9_1.pdf

The Department has also published comparisons of performance on a range of indicators in the report "Health Profile of England", which has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcpig?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=22190&Rendition=Web

Tackling health inequalities is an international issue and was a key health theme for the United Kingdom presidency of the European Union in 2005. As part of the presidency, the UK commissioned "Health Inequalities: Europe in Profile", which is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4121584.pdf.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that data collected through the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the new General Medical Services contract should require gender-specific information. [147555]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data for the Quality and Outcomes Framework are collected by the Quality Measurement Analysis System (QMAS). QMAS does not have the technical capability to collect patient specific information.

Nurses: Manpower

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist *(a)* stoma, *(b)* diabetes, *(c)* kidney, *(d)* Parkinson's disease and *(e)* cancer nurses were employed in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS trust. [148133]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify specialist stoma, diabetes, kidney, Parkinson's disease and cancer nurses from the rest of the nursing work force.

Primary Care Trusts

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many collaborative commissioning groups for specialist services were established by primary care trusts in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [148849]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of specialised commissioning groups, formed by consortia of primary care trusts, in the last three years, are set out in the following table.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Specialised commissioning groups (SCGs) in England	8	8	10
Local specialised commissioning groups (LSCGs) in England	25	25	0

Note:
In 2005-06 and 2006-07 LSCGs covered specialised services with a planning population of one to two million; SCGs covered a planning population of three to six million.

The overall number reduced from April 2007 following the implementation of the recommendations of Sir David Carter's Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services.

Primary Care Trusts: Committees

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what functions exceptional circumstances committees of primary care trusts (PCTs) have; how they operate; what guidance his Department provides to PCTs on the operation of such committees; and if he will make a statement. [148522]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are able to appoint committees of the trust, but there is no requirement for a special exception committee, an exceptional circumstance committee or other committee to approve treatments. There is no national guidance on the functions and operation of any such committee.

Private Finance Initiative

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the National Audit Office on its draft report on the private finance initiative. [148132]

Mr. Bradshaw: In line with established practice, the National Audit Office (NAO) offered the Department an early opportunity to comment on the factual accuracy of the NAO's provisional audit findings.

The provisional audit findings were never submitted for signing off by the Accounting Officer at the Department because the NAO subsequently decided that they were not sufficiently conclusive to justify a report to Parliament.

Shropshire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* original budgeted figures and *(b)* actual budget figures were for Shropshire Primary Care Trust in 2006-07. [146522]

Dawn Primarolo: The figures for 2006-07 revenue resource limit and capital resource limit for Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) are shown in the table.

	£000
Revenue	
Initial revenue resource limit	339,601
Final revenue resource limit	351,539
Charge against revenue resource limit	351,347
Underspend against revenue resource limit	192
Capital	
Initial capital resource limit	1,522
Final capital resource limit	7,711

	£000
Charge against capital resource limit	5,784
Underspend against capital resource limit	1,927

Notes:
The initial capital resource limit (CRL) figure does not include strategic capital or programme capital, which was allocated to strategic health authorities (SHA) for onward distribution to PCTs during the financial year.
The final CRL figure includes all capital allocations for programme and strategic capital and any other in year capital transfers requested by the SHA.
Source:
Shropshire County PCT draft accounts

Surgery

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out in NHS hospitals in each of the last five years. [147007]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table shows the count of finished consultant episodes from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Count of finished consultant episodes with an operation (opcs-4 codes between A01-X59 or and (operation code not known))

Data year	Count of FCE with operation
2001-02	6,467,642
2002-03	6,622,992
2003-04	6,780,919
2004-05	6,852,064
2005-06	7,221,638

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Tomography: Stockport Primary Care Trust

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* CT and *(b)* MRI scanners are installed in facilities in Stockport Primary Care Trust. [147249]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no CT or MRI scanners based at Stockport Primary Care Trust facilities.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of enforced curfews as an alternative to imprisonment. [148418]

Mr. Hanson: Curfew, which is normally monitored electronically, may be imposed as a condition of bail; as a sentence of the court or as a condition of release from prison. Studies suggest that curfew can be more cost effective than custody and may also help in the rehabilitation of offenders. It can also introduce regularity into what are often chaotic lifestyles and can disrupt the pattern of offending behaviour.

The Government believe that serious and dangerous offenders should be sent to prison. But where prison is not the right response to offending, a range of tough and demanding community punishments are available to the courts, which can include curfew.

The Home Detention Curfew scheme enables short term prisoners to be released up to 135 days before the automatic/conditional release date. The scheme is highly successful: 85 per cent. of those released on the scheme have completed it successfully with only 4 per cent. having re-offended while on HDC.

Criminal Records

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Data Protection Act 1998 prevents the Parole Board from putting information into the public domain on individual prisoners which might contribute to public protection; [146778]

(2) whether he has considered bringing forward changes to allow the Parole Board to put more information into the public domain for the protection of the public. [146779]

Mr. Hanson: Where it is proposed to share information between public bodies, those bodies must always ensure that they have the power to share those data. Public bodies such as the Parole Board have the power under common law to divulge information for the purpose of public protection in certain circumstances. Therefore, no specific statutory power is required.

Once is it established that such a power exists, those involved in disclosure must ensure that the exercise of the power to disclose is consistent with the legal framework established by the Data Protection Act 1998 ("the DPA").

The DPA does not automatically preclude the Parole Board sharing information on individual offenders with the police and probation services if that is necessary to enable those services to carry out their statutory responsibilities to protect the public. Whether disclosure for these purposes is consistent with the DPA will always depend on the individual circumstances of each case and whether the disclosure is truly necessary by reference to those facts.

Where sharing of data of the type mentioned above takes place, the police and probation services may, in turn, disclose the information to individuals under their own powers, if it is necessary for them to do so in order to manage the risks posed by offenders.

Taking all of the above into account, there are no proposals to amend legislation in respect of the disclosure of personal data as the current state of the law is sufficient to meet the requirements of public protection.

Driving Offences: Prosecutions

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions prosecutions for driving without *(a)* insurance and *(b)* due care and attention were abandoned as a result of the expiration of the statutory time for bringing them forward in each of the last five years, broken down by police force area. [148425]

Maria Eagle: The Court Proceedings Database, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, does not record the number of cases abandoned due to the time limitation rule.

Flexible Working: Parents

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the adequacy of workplace rights for parents of children with cancer, with particular reference to rights to leave to care for their children. [148521]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government provide extensive rights to leave for parents, including 52 weeks' maternity leave before a child is one and 13 weeks' parental leave until a child is five. In addition, parents of children under six (or under 18 in the case of a disabled child) have the right to request flexible working arrangements, which could be helpful when caring for sick children.

In 1999, the Government also introduced Time Off for Dependents, which is a right allowing employees to take a reasonable amount of time off work to deal with unexpected emergencies, e.g. to care for a sick child, and to make any necessary longer-term arrangements for dealing with them.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers there were in each year since 1992. [148424]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of officer grade staff employed within the public sector Prison Service and the contracted estate each year since 1992 is contained in the following table.

Officer grade staff in public sector Prison Service and contracted prisons[1]

	Total officers
31 March 1992	22,961
31 March 1993	24,121
31 March 1994	23,951
31 March 1995	24,448
31 March 1996	24,593
31 March 1997	23,058
31 March 1998	23,602
31 March 1999	24,113
31 March 2000	24,346
31 March 2001[2]	24,023
31 March 2002[2]	23,681
31 March 2003	24,527
31 March 2004[2]	25,461
31 March 2005	26,246
31 March 2006	26,747
31 March 2007[3]	27,053

[1] Figures include both publicly and privately managed establishments. Figures relate to prison officers, senior officers and principal officers within the public sector Prison Service and prison custody officers within contacted prisons. Officers employed within public sector Prison Service headquarters are included.

[2] Private contractors have not been able to supply information for; Ashfield and Doncaster prior to 2002, Dovegate in 2004, 2002 and 2001, Forest Bank, Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds prior to 2004 and Lowdham Grange in 2005, 2004 and prior to 2002.

[3] Figures for 2007 relating to contracted establishments refer to 31 January 2007 except for Parc, Forest Bank, Bronzefield and Peterborough.

Prisoners

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there are in England, broken down by age. [148401]

Mr. Hanson: Age breakdown figures of all prisoners held in prison establishments within England can be found in the table as follows.

Age breakdown for Prison establishments in England, May 2007

	Number
All	77,609
15-17	2,396
18-20	8,170
21-24	12,382
25-29	14,812
30-39	21,097
40-49	12,253
50-59	4,378
60-64	1,083
65 and over	1,038

Note:
Excluding prisoners held in police cells.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was in each year since 1992. [148423]

Mr. Hanson: The figures requested are in the table as follows.

Prison Population in England and Wales 1992-2007
Figures as at 30 June

	Number
1992	46,832
1993	44,246
1994	48,929
1995	51,084
1996	55,256
1997	61,467
1998	65,727
1999	64,529
2000	65,194
2001	66,403
2002	71,218
2003	73,657
2004	74,488
2005	76,190
2006	77,982
2007[1]	80,264

[1] May 2007

Sources:
i. Prison Statistics England and Wales 1993 and 1994 table 1.2
ii. Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, Table 8.1 for 1995-2005
iii. Monthly population in custody Statistics 2006-2007
iv. Population in prison and police cells

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Childbirth

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners gave birth in each of the last five years. [148403]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service has only routinely kept information centrally on births in custody since April 2005. Figures prior to this date are not available.

The number of prisoners giving birth in the last five years is as follows:

	Number
April 2007-6 July 2007	26
April 2006- March 2007	99
April 2005- March 2006	106

Prisoners: Elderly

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there are over 65 years old, broken down by category of offence committed. [148402]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of prisoners aged 65 and over serving immediate custodial sentences by offence group.

Prisoners[1] within England and Wales aged 65 and over by offence category, May 2007

	Number
All	1,003
Violence against the person	185
Sexual offences	642
Robbery	5
Burglary	7
Theft and handling	6
Fraud and forgery	15
Drug offences	72
Motoring offences	5
Other offences	65
Offence not recorded	2

[1] Under immediate custodial sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Hepatitis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of hepatitis B occurred in prisons in each of the last five years. [148407]

Mr. Hanson: The last major study of hepatitis B prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales found that of 3,942 prisoners tested (8 per cent.) were infected with hepatitis B.

Prisoners: Mothers

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pregnant female offenders *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted permission for their children to remain with them in prison after birth in each of the last five years; and what the length was of the sentence served by each mother following birth. [148404]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service is unable to provide any figures before October 2006 as these were not routinely recorded.

Between 1 October 2006 and 31 March 2007, there were 83 applications received. From these applications 52 boards sat and 37 were given a place on a mother and baby unit in custody, 31 of the 37 were sentenced women.

Between 1 April 2007 and 6 July 2007 a total of 34 applications were received, 29 sat boards and 22 women were granted a place. Fourteen of these successful applications were from sentenced mothers.

The discrepancies between application and board numbers are a result of several possible factors: withdrawn applications, pregnant women released from custody (both on remand and following sentencing), some may in fact still be awaiting boards or the results.

Information is not held centrally on the time actually served by women in the units.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of female prisoners with children under five years old. [148405]

Mr. Hanson: The 2003-04 resettlement survey commissioned by the Prison Service Custody to Work Unit showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Prisoners: Suicide

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners (i) attempted and (ii) committed suicide in each of the last five years. [148409]

Mr. Hanson: There is no definition of what constitutes an attempted suicide, as it is very difficult to measure suicidal intent. The information requested with respect to apparent self-inflicted deaths is contained in the following table:

	Number of self-inflicted deaths[1]	
	Female	*Male*
2002	9	86
2003	14	80
2004	13	82
2005	4	74
2006	3	64

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Prisoners: Tuberculosis

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of tuberculosis occurred in prisons in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in prisons. [148406]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not routinely available from prison establishments on the number of prisoners diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis (TB). However as TB is a notifiable disease, each new case is reported to the local Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC).

The Prison Service's Performance Standard, Health Services for Prisoners (May 2004) requires every prison establishment to have in place effective arrangements for the prevention, control and management of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis. These must include arrangements for the notification of all incidents of notifiable disease, such as TB to the local Health Protection Agency's Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) and an action plan in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease. The diagnosis, care, treatment and management and contact tracing of prisoners with tuberculosis is undertaken in consultation with local national health service specialists in accordance with the British Thoracic Society guidelines for the management of TB.

Prisons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons are located in England and Wales. [148422]

Mr. Hanson: There are 142 prison establishments in England and Wales. This includes two Immigration Removal Centres, Dover and Haslar, that are managed by the Prison Service on behalf of the Border and Immigration Agency, and establishments managed as single prisons Moorland Open / Moorland Closed, Grendon / Springhill and Usk / Prescoed.

Prisons: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number and percentage of the prison population using *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* ecstasy, *(c)* heroin and *(d)* cocaine. [148384]

Mr. Hanson: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is provided by the random mandatory drug testing programme. The positive rates for the above named drugs in 2006-07 can be found in the following table:

	2006-07	
	Number of positives	*Percentage positive*
Cannabis	2,562	4.3
Ecstasy	30	0.04
Opiates	2,411	4.0
Cocaine	96	0.2

Note:
Number of confirmed positives—ecstasy is classified as an amphetamine type drug it is not until a confirmation test is conducted that the presence of ecstasy can be determined.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were caught in possession of narcotics while serving prison sentences in each of the last five years. [148385]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of offences for possessing a controlled drug is given in the following table.

	Possession of an unauthorised article
2001	1,837
2002	1,134
2003	1,271
2004	1,315
2005	1,343

Prisons: Genito-urinary Medicine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what access prisoners have to *(a)* condoms, *(b)* sexual health advice and *(c)* testing for sexually transmitted infections. [148408]

Mr. Hanson: Above all other considerations, prisons must maintain good order and discipline for people in custody. They should not therefore take any action that can be interpreted as encouraging overt sexual behaviour by prisoners.

The Prison Service recognises that sex in prisons occurs and that this brings with it associated public health concerns. Prison doctors therefore have authority to prescribe condoms if, in their clinical judgement, there is a risk of HIV infection or transmission of any other sexually transmitted illness.

Condoms will not be made available to prisoners without appropriate information and guidance on sexual health education being given first.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) now have commissioning and clinical governance responsibility for the health services provided within publicly managed prisons. Prisons and PCTs work together through managed co-ordination to ensure that the quality of health care delivered within prisons is comparable to that provided by the national health service for the wider community. Resource allocations are underpinned by prison health needs assessments.

Sexual health is recognised to be an important health care need and therefore resources are allocated accordingly and to match the need within prisons.

All prisoners undergo health reception screenings on entry into prison. This is a detailed questionnaire completed by health care staff interviewing the prisoner. It is designed to identify any long-term

medical conditions, any use of prescribed medication, any history of alcohol or substance dependence, any mental health problems and any symptoms requiring urgent medical attention or indicating a need for review by a medical doctor.

Health reception screenings do not include a screen for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or a blood test for HIV infection.

Tests for STIs or HIV can be offered to prisoners following a risk assessment by a doctor, or other appropriately trained member of the health care team, if a prisoner presents with signs or symptoms of such infections or describes risk behaviour which may have exposed him or her to such infections.

Prisoners are also able to request a screen for STIs or HIV if they believe that they may have been exposed to infection.

Probation Officers: Training

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the numbers of people in training as probation officers in each probation service region in each year since 1997; and at what cost per student. [148435]

Mr. Hanson: A breakdown of the number of people in training as probation officers and the cost per student is contained in the following tables. Cost information is only available from 2003-04 onwards, when the Home Office took over responsibility for the higher education contracts. It is not possible to provide the information by region.

Trainee Probation Officer figure and costs

	Trainee Probation Officer
1997	—
1998	229
1999	523
2000	564
2001	1,096
2002	1,566
2003	1,818
2004	1,774
2005	1,387
2006	1,134

Notes:
All figures are given as full time equivalent (FTE), and are rounded up to the nearest full employee.
All figures are taken as at 31 December of the relevant year.
Figures from 1997 to 2002 are taken from the RDS Probation Statistics, while those for 2003-04 onwards are lifted from the quarterly workforce information report produced by PACU (formerly NPD).

Financial year	*Cost per student*
2003-04	34,517
2004-05	35,367
2005-06	36,167
2006-07	36,227

Note:
The new trainee allowance is based upon the trainee base allowance, but adjusted in line with each Board's labour cost factor and pension cost factor. For 2006-07 only, a further pension adjustment was made to the allowance. The figures also include the average university administration cost per year.

Probation Officers: Vacancies

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of job vacancies for new entry probation officers in each probation region in each year since 1997. [148436]

Mr. Hanson: I am unable to give information regarding the number of job vacancies for new entry probation officers. The numbers for national recruitment for trainee probation officers are communicated to probation areas with the decision to recruit into other posts, including new entry probation officers, being made by local boards.

Not all probation areas in the national probation service operate a set establishment against which vacant posts can be measured. As a more representative alternative, probation areas are required to report regularly on the number of active vacancies they have. An active vacancy is one which a probation area is actively trying to fill through a recruitment process. The information that is collected is an overall figure for probation officers and does not distinguish those who are new entrants.

Rape: Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 357W, on rape: sentencing, what his assessment is of the reasons for the differences in sentences given in Northern Ireland compared to those in England and Wales; and if he will take steps to bring the different sentences into line. [148488]

Mr. Hanson: The sentencing framework and policy remains the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office in Northern Ireland and for the Ministry of Justice in England and Wales. Differences have historically occurred in operational practice.

The Northern Ireland Office undertook a comprehensive public consultation on proposals for reviewing the sentencing framework for Northern Ireland in 2006, and it will be publishing proposals based on this consultation in due course.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase young offender institution capacity. [148493]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the 8,000 capacity programme, the National Offender Management Service is planning to provide additional capacity for young offenders including places at Belmarsh East, Hindley, Portland, Stoke Heath and Brinsford.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of trends in the young offender institution population over the next 10 years. [148494]

Mr. Hanson: The latest projections of the prison population 2006 to 2013 were published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/06, "Prison population

projections 2006-2013, England and Wales", on the Home Office website in July 2006. These projections do not estimate the population in young offender institutions, which accommodate 15 to 20-year-olds, separately.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders under the age of 21 years found guilty of an offence were given a *(a)* custodial sentence and *(b)* non-custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [148495]

Maria Eagle: The information requested, for the years 1995 to 2005, is contained in the following table.

Number of persons[1] under the age of 21 sentenced to custodial and non-custodial[2] sentences, all courts, England and Wales

Number of persons

Type of sentence	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Non-custodial[2]	196,080	205,648	212,683	229,196	229,908	227,715
Immediate custody	19,203	21,247	22,868	24,220	25,664	25,855
Total	215,283	226,895	235,551	253,416	255,572	253,570

Number of persons

Type of sentence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Non-custodial[2]	227,848	229,153	232,960	231,626	222,008
Immediate custody	25,544	24,779	21,638	20,961	20,246
Total	253,392	253,932	254,598	252,587	242,254

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Absolute and conditional discharge, fine, community sentence, suspended sentence order and otherwise dealt with.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 July 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Pay

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many full-time non-manual staff of the House who are not officers of the House receive salaries of *(a)* more than £40,000, *(b)* £30,000 to £40,000, *(c)* £25,000 to £30,000, *(d)* £20,000 to £25,000 and *(e)* under £20,000 per year. [148656]

Nick Harvey: As at 1 April 2007, the number of full-time non-manual staff at the pay levels requested were as follows:

Basic annual rate of pay as at 1 April 2007	*Number of full-time non-manual staff*
More than £40,000	7
Between £30,000 and £40,000	249
Between £25,000 and £30,000	235
Between £20,000 and £25,000	279
Under £20,000	149
Total	929

TRANSPORT

A21

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding has been allocated for the planning of road improvements along the A21 in the 2007-08 financial year. [149316]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency plans to spend approximately £1.6 million during 2007-08 on planning three proposed major road improvements on the A21—Tonbridge bypass to Pembury Dualling, Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvements and improvements to the A21 Baldslow junction.

A69: Greenhead

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1517W, on the A69: Greenhead, whether the A69 Greenhead diversion scheme contract obliged the Northumberland county council engineer to obtain prior approval from officials of her Department before certifying for payment ICE contract clause 60(6) interest. [148579]

Mr. Tom Harris: The contract did not oblige the engineer to obtain prior approval from the Department for Transport before he made a certificate.

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1517W, on the A69: Greenhead, whether her Department authorised the Northumberland county council engineer to certify for payment £103,974.92 clause 60(6) interest in connection with the A69 Greenhead diversion scheme. [148580]

Mr. Tom Harris: There was no legal requirement on the engineer to seek prior approval from the department before he made a certificate. If the engineer had nonetheless done so, the contract would not have obliged him to take any notice of the department's response.

Aviation: Fuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review the findings of the Aviation White Paper on fuel efficiency per seat. [149370]

Jim Fitzpatrick: "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper, 2003, referred to the fuel efficiency gains that could be achieved arising from fleet replacement and technology improvements.

The Department for Transport carbon dioxide forecasts and underlying assumptions are published in "Aviation and Global Warming", 2004. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/air/docs/aviationandglobalwarmingreport

"The Future of Air Transport Progress Report", published in December 2006, committed us to producing revised emissions forecasts in 2007.

Bus Services: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus journeys were made in Gravesham in each year since 1997; and how many passenger kilometres such journeys represented in each year. [149310]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department collects statistics on bus passenger patronage through an Annual Survey of Public Service Vehicle operators, complemented by quarterly surveys of the largest operators. The statistics are not collected at a level of detail to provide information for Gravesham.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146329]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. Details of expenditure by the Department on consultants from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are shown as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	227.5
2003-04	239.5
2004-05	193.3
2005-06	72.1
2006-07	81.2

Identifying which consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Government Shareholding

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1283-4W, on Government shareholding, what the nature and status is of the special shares held by her Department in *(a)* Eurostar (UK) Ltd, *(b)* London and Continental Railways Ltd, *(c)* Union Railways (North) Ltd and *(d)* Inter-Capital and Regional Rail Ltd. [148947]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government hold non-balance sheet special shares in all four companies. None of the shareholdings confers voting rights but they do provide Ministers with certain rights sufficient to safeguard the business and ensure continuity of the project.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will initiate a review of the quality of the service offered by First Great Western. [149369]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport monitors punctuality, reliability and service quality of all franchises on a monthly basis.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths there have been and *(b)* serious injuries have been sustained in accidents involving a vehicle registered in another EU country in each year since 2000, broken down by country; and in how many cases in each year the European registered vehicle was exceeding the speed limit. [149171]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information on the country of registration of vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents is not recorded. However since 2005, the Department has collected information on whether vehicles involved in accidents are foreign registered.

In 2005, there were 59 fatalities and 348 seriously injured casualties resulting from accidents involving foreign registered vehicles. Of these, there were two fatalities and four seriously injured casualties resulted from accidents in which the foreign registered vehicles had 'exceeding the speed limit' as a contributory factor.

Railway Stations: Disabled People

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of accessibility at rail stations in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire; what plans she has to improve accessibility at those stations; and what estimate she has made of the cost of doing so. [149237]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold information on the level of accessibility at stations in Leeds or across West Yorkshire. Station accessibility is assessed by train operating companies and collated by the Association of Train Operating Companies. The information is published at www.nationalrail.co.uk

To improve access at stations, we have allocated £370 million Access for All funding up to 2015. Stations have been included in the programme based on footfall, weighted against the incidence of disability locally (using information contained in the 2001 census). Huddersfield, Keighley and Shipley have been selected for inclusion in the programme up to 2011. These will be provided with a step—free route into the station and to, and between, each platform. It is too early to give an accurate estimate of the likely cost of these works.

Other inaccessible stations in Leeds and West Yorkshire will be considered for inclusion in the next tranche of stations to be announced later this year.

Railways: Brighton

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements have been planned for the Brighton to London Victoria train line in 2007-08. [149317]

Mr. Tom Harris: The then Secretary of State for Transport my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Douglas Alexander) announced on 4 April 2007, the results of the recent consultation on the implementation of the Brighton Main Line (BML) Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS).The key decision is that, at the busiest times of day, the Gatwick Express will run beyond Gatwick to Brighton, doubling the number of express trains between Brighton and London Victoria in the high peak. This service change will take place in December 2008.

Railways: Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of train surfing were reported in each of the last five years, broken down by railway network. [149729]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, email: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

JUSTICE

Armley Prison: Suicide

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suicides have taken place in HM Prison Armley in each year since 1987. [148651]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table and associated notes.

	Number of self-inflicted deaths at HMP Leeds[1]
1987	2
1988	4
1989	2
1990	1
1991	2
1992	2
1993	2
1994	1
1995	1
1996	1
1997	1
1998	4
1999	5
2000	3
2001	1
2002	4
2003	3
2004	2
2005	2
2006	7
2007	2

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Coroners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of verdicts returned by coroner's inquests *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each coroner's region were (i) death by accident or misadventure, (ii) death from natural causes, (iii) suicide, (iv) open verdicts, (v) death from industrial diseases, (vi) death from dependent abuse of drugs, (vii) death from non-dependent abuse of drugs, (viii) homicide and (ix) all other in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [148597]

(2) how many and what proportion of coroner's inquests *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each coroner's region were adjourned and not resumed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [148598]

(3) how many and what proportion of coroner's inquests *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each coroner's region had a verdict returned in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [148599]

Bridget Prentice: Due to the comprehensive data, the information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post-mortems

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many post-mortem examinations were carried out *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each coroner's region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [148600]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House, as per the answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on post-mortem examinations.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults on prison officers or other HMP staff there have been in each of the last 10 years. [148673]

Mr. Hanson: Assault information is recorded at establishment level where it should be categorised into one of four categories "Prisoner on Prisoner", "Prisoner on Officer", "Prisoner on Other" and "Other". The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers, establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category.

Information from incidents which have been categorised as "Prisoner on Officer" and "Prisoner on Other" is provided in the following table. This may be over-inclusive and contain some assaults on visitors and official visitors.

Reliable data for 1997-99 are not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number
2000	1,929
2001	2,366
2002	2,538
2003	2,553
2004	2,803
2005	3,176
2006	3,159
2007[1]	1,210

[1] Up to 31 May 2007.

Notes:

1. The numbers of incidents of assaults reported here are derived from the Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS). This system processes high volumes of data supplied by prisons and is constantly being updated. The numbers indicated here provide a useful indication of the realistic scale of assaults incidents, many of which are relatively minor. The numbers should not be interpreted as absolute.
2. The increase in reported numbers of assaults reflects, in part, the increase in prison population.
3. There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.
4. Numbers need to be interpreted with caution as some assault incidents may involve more than one assaulter or more than one victim, e.g. one or more prisoners and a member of staff. The numbers refer to the number of incidents not the number of prisoners and others involved.

Young Offender Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many assaults on staff there have been at young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [148674]

Mr. Hanson: Information from incidents which have been categorised as 'Prisoner on Officer' and 'Prisoner on Other' is provided in the following table.

This may be over-inclusive and contain some assaults on visitors and official visitors. The information is restricted to YOI institutions—it does not include assault data from mixed function establishments—and therefore precludes data from establishments also holding older prisoners as well as all female assault incidents.

Reasonably reliable data for 1997-99 are not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number
2000	480
2001	539
2002	555
2003	507
2004	709
2005	801
2006	776
[1]2007	280

[1] Up to 31 May 2007

Notes:

1. The numbers of assaults reported here are derived from the Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS). This system processes high volumes of data supplied by prisons and is constantly being updated. The numbers indicated here provide a useful indication of the realistic scale of assaults incidents, many of which are relatively minor. The numbers should not be interpreted as absolute.
2. The increase in reported numbers of assaults reflects, in part, the increase in prison population.
3. There is a slight lag in reporting which means that the provisional number mentioned here will rise a little in the coming months.
4. Numbers need to be interpreted with caution as some assault incidents may involve more than one assaulter or more than one victim, e.g. one or more prisoners and a member of staff.

The numbers refer to the number of incidents not the number of prisoners and others involved.

TREASURY

Regional Budget Allocations

10. **Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to create regional budget allocations. [149017]

Andy Burnham: In July 2005, the Government published 10-year indicative regional finding allocations for English regions outside London amounting to approximately £4 billion per annum, and covering economic development, transport and housing in July 2005.

The Government are conducting a Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration, which is exploring options for expanding the scope of regional funding allocations.

NHS

11. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the NHS hospital building and equipment budget; and if he will make a statement. [149018]

Andy Burnham: I have regular conversations with ministerial colleagues but, as was convention under previous Governments, I will not disclose the specific details of such discussions. However, I can confirm

NHS capital expenditure has grown by over 10 per cent. per year in real terms since 1997-98

We have already replaced almost a third of the acute and general NHS estate since 1997

By 2010, 111 new major hospital schemes will be open (worth £8.5 billion)

Debt Relief

12. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made towards meeting the Government's targets on debt relief; and if he will make a statement. [149021]

Kitty Ussher: Treasury shares a PSA target for the 2005-08 period to ensure that 90 per cent. of the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) countries that had reached Decision Point by end 2005 receive irrevocable debt relief by end 2008. Of the 28 countries concerned, 22 have now completed the HIPC process and we expect to meet our PSA target.

The UK remains committed to the full implementation and financing of the HIPC Initiative to ensure maximum debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

HMRC Office: Central Ayrshire

13. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the area of the relocation of HM Revenue and Customs office in Central Ayrshire constituency. [149022]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has more office space than it needs and will be reviewing all its accommodation, including that in central Ayrshire, to match it to future business needs and create significant savings. Its review process includes internal and external consultation on all its proposals, and an assessment of the impact of any office closure on local communities as well as on staff and customers. All Enquiry Centres will be kept in their current localities.

Skills Improvement

14. **Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic impact of expenditure on improving skills in the past three years. [149023]

Angela Eagle: The Government have increased investment in real terms in the Further Education sector by 48 per cent. and in Higher Education Institutions by 20 per cent. between 1997 and 2006. This has supported improvements in the UK's skills base at all levels.

As Lord Leitch set out in his independent report on the UK's long-term skills needs, the increasing skills profile of the UK work force overtime has contributed to economic growth.

Lord Leitch also concluded that a skilled work force is increasingly critical if the UK is to continue to grow and meet global challenges.

Disposable Household Income

15. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the trend in real disposable household incomes over the last 12 months. [149024]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lichfield (Michael Fabricant) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Schools

16. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the economic impact of expenditure on schools in the last 10 years. [149025]

Andy Burnham: Per pupil expenditure in England has risen from under £2,500 in 1997 to £5,550 today. This has supported a sustained increase in attainment—with 350,000 more children achieving five good GCSEs since 1997.

As Lord Leitch set out in his report on the UK's long-term skills needs, the increasing skills profile of the UK work force over time has contributed to economic growth.

Lord Leitch also concluded that a skilled work force is increasingly critical if the UK is to continue to grow and meet global challenges.

Public Service Agreements

17. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for a public service agreement on early intervention with parents and children. [149026]

Andy Burnham: The performance management framework in the CSR07 period will include a set of cross-cutting public service agreements (PSAs) which will articulate Government's highest-priority outcomes for the spending period. These will sit alongside a set of strategic objectives for each Department. Both sets will be published at the comprehensive spending review.

The Government are committed to delivering services for families which focus on prevention and early intervention, as set out in the "Every child matters" programme and most recently confirmed in the children and young people's policy review "Aiming high for children: supporting families" (March 2007), published jointly by the Treasury and the then DfES.

Financial Impact Statements

18. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce financial impact statements alongside the publication of new taxation proposals. [149027]

Angela Eagle: The estimated financial impacts to the Exchequer of any announced tax changes are shown in table B4 of the pre-Budget report or table A1 of the Budget.

All measures are rigorously assessed and where appropriate we publish Impact Assessments alongside the Finance Bill. Separate financial impact statements are therefore unnecessary. Cabinet Office's launch of the new Impact Assessment process in May demonstrates Government's continued commitment to the transparency of its policy analysis.

Capital Gains Tax

19. **Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the rules relating to capital gains tax on second homes. [149028]

Jane Kennedy: The Government keep all aspects of the tax system—including the rules relating to capital gains tax and second homes—under review.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people paid capital gains tax in each year since 1996-97. [148563]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of payers of capital gains tax in each year from 1996-97 are available in National Statistics table 14.1 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/menu.htm

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with the Ministry of Defence on the future of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [149321]

Andy Burnham: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of people who will claim tax credits as a result of the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of income tax in the financial year 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [149012]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of people who will claim tax credits as a result of the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of income tax in the financial year 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [149020]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Members for Bournemouth, West (Sir John Butterfill), for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) and for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Tax Allowances: Transport

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to process tax rebates on mileage allowances was in each region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [148930]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs does not keep a record of the information requested.

Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Northern Ireland were taken to court for recovery of overpayment of tax credits in each of the last three years. [148987]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Custom's policy is to attempt to make personal contact in all cases before legal proceedings are considered including at least one visit to the last known address of the claimant. HM Revenue and Customs has taken some 1,200 cases to court, as a last resort to secure payment, in Northern Ireland for recovery of tax credit overpayments in year 2006-07. The information requested is not available for earlier years.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of tax credit customer service in Northern Ireland *(a)* before and *(b)* after the removal of the Tax Credit Customer Service Unit; and if he will consider re-establishing the unit. [148994]

Jane Kennedy: Customer service for tax credits is dealt with by a central team enabling HM Revenue and Customs to treat all customers fairly and consistently. The information requested is not available in the format requested but HMRC conduct a satisfaction survey of its customers who telephone the tax credits helplines. In 2006-07 87 per cent. of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall service they received from the helpline.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business Council for Britain

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost is of the establishment of the new Business Council for Britain. [147885]

Mr. Timms: A firm estimate of the cost of operating the Business Council for Britain will only be possible following further discussion with its Chair and members regarding the Council's working methods. However, Members will not be paid for their work on the Council and costs will be kept to the minimum consistent with the Council's efficient and effective operation. The cost of supporting the Council, including the operation of its secretariat, will be met from within the Department's agreed budget for the new Comprehensive Spending Review period.

Business: Higher Education

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to encourage closer working between business and universities. [148464]

Mr. Timms: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) will now lead on encouraging links between business and universities. They will build on the successful links established through the Higher Education Innovation Fund and the Technology Programmes while within the Department of Trade and Industry. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will liaise closely with DIUS to ensure that business can take full advantage of UK science, research and innovation so that it can compete successfully in the global economy.

Cash Dispensing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many free-to-use cash machines have been located in the poorest 10 per cent. of wards in the UK. [148888]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

As of December 2006, over 5,700 free ATMs were located in the poorest 10 per cent. of wards in the UK, equivalent to around 17 per cent. of all free ATMs in the UK. On 13 December 2006, the working group on ATMs set up at the instigation of the Treasury found that while most low-income areas are relatively well served by free ATMs, there were a small but significant number of areas without convenient access to free cash withdrawals. The group concluded that around 600 new free ATMs could effectively meet access gaps in these areas.

As announced by my predecessor on 19 June, excellent progress is being made towards this goal of providing over 600 additional free ATMs in low-income areas across the UK, and 56, or 34 per cent. of the 167 new free ATMs already issuing cash to the public are located in the poorest 10 per cent. of the low-income areas identified by the working group.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total cost has been of the change from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, broken down by *(a)* relocation expenses, *(b)* rebranding expenses on (i) signs, (ii) stationery and (iii) departmental publications and *(c)* other expenses. [147811]

Mr. Thomas: No relocation expenses have been incurred to date.

No expenditure has yet been incurred on rebranding of signs and stationery. To date the Department has incurred costs of £2,677 on the production of rebranded departmental publications.

Costs of £10,564 have been incurred for graphic design services. Costs of £2,500 have been incurred on updating the Department's publications orderline website.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date a new sign for his building was commissioned. [147813]

Mr. Thomas: The Department commissioned temporary signage on 27 June 2007.

Overseas Trade: Taiwan

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of *(a)* UK investment in Taiwan and *(b)* Taiwan's investment in the UK was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [148363]

Mr. Thomas: The following table shows data for net foreign international investment positions at the end of each year.

£ million

	UK stock of foreign direct investment in Taiwan	*Taiwan stock of foreign direct investment in UK*
2001	607	231
2002	747	213
2003	642	126
2004	878	157
2005	890	112

Source:
ONS Foreign Direct Investment Surveys

Corresponding data for portfolio investment and other investment is not available.

Public Participation: ICT

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to enable consultees to respond to consultations electronically. [148466]

Mr. Thomas: The Department follows guidance contained in the government-wide Code of Practice on Consultation.

BERR consultation documents are made accessible electronically by placing them on the department's website in a single place. The department's consultations include an email address to which consultees can respond electronically.

Some consultations have gone further and introduced innovative ways of enabling responses. A recent example is the current consultation on the future of nuclear power where an interactive website has been set up to allow the submission of consultation responses online.

Regional Development Agencies: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* employees of, *(b)* board members of and *(c)* individuals sponsored by the regional development agencies (RDAs) in the last three calendar years, broken down by RDA; and what the total cost was of such flights. [148416]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trade: European Union

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to reduce the UK's trade deficit with the European Union. [147787]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 5 July 2007]:* The key to the UK's competitiveness is improving our productivity rather than just our trade balance in itself.

The Government's approach to raising productivity centres on maintaining macro-economic stability so as to provide firms and individuals with the certainty needed to invest in the future, as well as implementing micro-economic reforms to remove barriers that prevent markets from functioning efficiently.

The Government have identified five drivers of productivity—investment, innovation, skills, enterprise, and competition—and a wide-ranging programme of reforms have been initiated to boost productivity in these areas.

Similarly, at the EU level, the UK has been driving the productivity agenda—negotiating to remove barriers to trade, which would make it easier for UK businesses to trade across the EU.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Clergy: Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Police Service of Northern Ireland has received *(a)* full details and *(b)* summaries of allegations of child sexual abuse by priests from the Roman Catholic Church. [148549]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI that they have received information regarding a number of allegations of historic sexual abuse allegedly committed by priests from the Roman Catholic Church.

This information was handed to PSNI by solicitors acting on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church has co-operated fully with PSNI supplying all relevant information which has been required or requested.

An investigation file is currently with the Public Prosecution Service for consideration.

Crime Prevention

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to communicate crime prevention advice to the public in Northern Ireland. [148062]

Paul Goggins: There is a wide range of measures in place to communicate crime prevention advice, both at regional and local levels. The Community Safety Unit of the Northern Ireland Office provides advice, as well as financial support, and works in partnership with other statutory and voluntary organisations to tackle many crime prevention issues. These include domestic burglary, car crime, hate crime, business crime, crimes against older people, antisocial behaviour, illicit drugs, domestic violence and sexual violence. Advice is provided through a variety of mediums including television and radio campaigns, project staff, leaflets, face to face advice and websites.

At a local level, Community Safety Partnerships are located in every district council area throughout Northern Ireland. Each partnership has a published action plan which specifies the crime issues to be addressed in that particular area. They offer advice through local road shows, seminars, community newsletters and targeted leaflets.

PSNI communicates crime prevention advice to the public in many ways. Radio advertisements, posters and billboards are used both by the PSNI and in partnership with the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit. There have also recently been publicity campaigns giving advice on domestic burglary, crimes against older persons and property marking.

PSNI have also made presentations at public meetings on a variety of topics. For example, in Londonderry during May 2007, a presentation was given to more than 70 business owners on preventing Tiger Kidnaps. Likewise, the PSNI participate in a number of groups such as the National Security Inspectorate, the Tobacco and Alcohol group (to give anti-robbery advice for high value loads), Retailers Against Crime In Northern Ireland (dealing with all aspects of crime against the retail community) and Northern Ireland Bankers Association (cash in transit robberies, kidnap or robbery of bank staff and counterfeit currency).

PSNI also recently staged a theft from a vehicle, which was filmed for local television news, to highlight ways to secure against the theft of Satellite Navigation Systems.

In addition, PSNI Crime Prevention Officers frequently attend public events such as the recent Young at Heart exhibition at the Kings Hall (for older persons) and the Seagate Young Innovators exhibition at the Odyssey (for school children). They also hand out advice leaflets (both Home Office and locally produced material) at many public events, from local Farming Shows to the North West 200 motorcycle race event.

Crime prevention advice is provided to children as part of the Citizenship and Safety Education Programme (CASE) in schools and they can also get advice from the website owned by PSNI Community Safety Branch.

PSNI Crime Prevention Officers are available to attend homes and businesses on request to give specific advice.

PSNI Crime Prevention Branch purchases and gives away a variety of security products. In 2007-08 to date this has included 9,000 personal attack alarms for nursing and health care staff and 10,000 Ultra Violet property marking pens as well as various promotional items to guide the public to websites giving advice on various crime issues.

PSNI also promote the ACPO Secured by Design Scheme, both by involvement with architects, town planners and local council Planning and Building Control Departments and by advertising in trade journals and local magazines.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149187]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office, one member of staff has been disciplined within the last 12 months and one member of staff is currently being served with disciplinary proceedings in relation to inappropriate use of the internet while at work.

No staff have been dismissed for inappropriate use of the internet while at work within the last 12 months.

No staff have been disciplined or dismissed for using work telephones to access premium rate numbers in the last 12 months.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W, on Departments: official hospitality, from which external customers the sum of £184,000 was recouped in 2006-07; and for what reason the amount recouped increased by £95,000 from the previous year. [146804]

Paul Goggins: The previous answer referred to of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W, inadvertently stated that £184,000 was recouped from external customers. In fact, this money was recouped from both external and internal customers. In 2005-06, £80,000 was recouped from external customers and £9,000 from internal customers. (In 2006-07, £149,000 was recouped from external customers and £35,000 from internal customers).

In addition to its own use, the NIO permits a wide range of organisations to use the facilities at Hillsborough Castle for a variety of events. These organisations include; other NI Government Departments, the Prison Service, the Police Service, the armed services, and a variety of charitable organisations—all of whom are charged for the services they receive.

The Department also charges external and internal customers for services they receive at Stormont house.

The number of events and the cost of putting on those events will determine the amount recouped from customers. These two factors will have contributed to the rise in recoupment between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

A detailed list of the individual events and their costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Misuse

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to combat illegal drug use in Northern Ireland. [148060]

Paul Goggins: Illegal drug use in Northern Ireland is being addressed on a number of fronts. The New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs (2006-11) provided an overarching strategy. In parallel, PSNI and other law enforcement agencies in Northern Ireland are delivering significant results at an operational level. Last year, in addition to seizing over £22 million of drugs, the number of arrests for drug offences rose by almost 20 per cent. from 1,419 to 1,726.

Through the Organised Task Force, the PSNI work closely with HMRC and SOCA on an international and national basis to tackle the menace of drugs. In addition, the Assets Recovery Agency have successfully frozen assets believed to have been obtained through profit from drug dealing. Excellent cross border relations exist on this issue with An Garda Siochana.

Tackling drug misuse continues to be a priority. The Criminal Justice Directorate of the Northern Ireland Office and the NI Prison Service fund a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations to deliver drug treatment services to offenders.

Police: Crimes Against the Person

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent measures have been put in place to protect police officers from assault; [148056]

(2) how many incidents of assault or abuse of police officers were reported in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; how many such incidents involved the use of knives; and what steps are being taken to reduce such incidents. [148059]

Paul Goggins: The safety of police officers is a primary consideration for the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Measures to protect police officers from assault form part of the ongoing development of equipment and tactics undertaken by the PSNI in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office.

Operational officers receive personal safety training on a regular basis, the content of which reflects their role and this training is reviewed in line with both local and national trends. Recent developments include training in the skills required for single officer patrolling.

Officer personal safety training includes tactics in the early resolution of conflict through effective verbal communication, the use of unarmed skills, batons, incapacitant spray and handcuffs, all of which assist in improving officer safety when policing violent or potentially violent situations.

Officers are issued with dual-purpose body armour, commonly referred to as stab vests, and a training package, designed to protect officers from an attacker in possession of an edged weapon, is being delivered to operational officers throughout the PSNI.

The PSNI have provided the following data relating to the number of such offences where the victim is a member of the Police Service.

Offences against the person where the victim is a member of the Police Service

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total number of offences	2,210	2,191	2,325	2,699	2,928
Number of offences involving a knife	11	6	11	16	7

Notes:
1. The figures relate to offences where the victim is described as a member of the Police Service; they do not specifically relate to police officers on duty. They include abuse of a verbal nature where this is deemed serious enough to constitute a criminal offence. Obstructing and resisting police offences are excluded from the figures as from 1 April 2003, they are no longer counted within the recorded crime series.
2. Please note that these figures are based on operational police data and as such are provisional and may be subject to revision.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to improve the facilities in prisons for prisoners with mental health problems. [148063]

Paul Goggins: The nature of mental disorder experienced by prisoners varies considerably from mild anxiety to severe psychiatric disorders. As in the community, prisoners are encouraged to take as much control as possible over their own care and in the main, prisoners will remain in normal location and be treated and supported by healthcare professionals including psychiatrists and mental health trained nurses. Prisoners who are diagnosed with a severe psychiatric disorder will be transferred to hospital under the provisions of the Mental Health (NI) Order 1986.

A small number of in-patient places are available within the healthcare unit in Maghaberry Prison for those who require assessment, stabilisation or who are awaiting transfer to hospital. A small residential unit has recently been opened in Maghaberry for prisoners with complex needs, including personality disorders. Furthermore, consideration is being given to the possibility of developing a therapeutic unit for prisoners with addiction problems.

It is planned that the lead responsibility for the provision of healthcare services to prisoners will transfer to the health service in October 2007. The provision of mental health services has been recognised as a priority issue and if the new arrangements identify the need for improvements to facilities for prisoners with mental health disorders, where possible, steps will be taken to introduce the improvements.

Rape

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources his Department has made available for the education of women on how to protect themselves from rape. [148061]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office is playing a supporting role in an initiative led by the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to combat

sexual violence. The Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety is leading the prevention and support aspect of the initiative, which involves measures to better enable women to protect themselves from rape.

In addition PSNI is also committed to adopting a pro-active multi-agency approach to tackling sexual violence, and to making resources available wherever possible. PSNI is currently working in partnership with Women's Aid, Northern Ireland to enhance the education of women in how to protect themselves from sexual assault.

It has long been recognised that serious sexual offences are often part of domestic violence, either against a current or previous intimate partner. Police officers attend various Women's Aid, Community-based advocacy and outreach services providing practical advice and support to those present regarding personal safety.

Also, given the number of licensed premises across Northern Ireland, particularly in city centres, and with alcohol misuse contributing at times to incidents of sexual assault, various initiatives such as the 'Get Home Safe' campaign, the issuing of personal alarms in certain areas, and the ongoing advice provided by PSNI Crime Prevention Officers have all contributed to educating women in relation to their personal safety.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* Armed Forces, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Royal Navy and *(d)* RAF (i) were deployed on operations in 1997 and (ii) are deployed on operations currently. [148236]

Des Browne: Comparable figures are not available for 1997.

The percentage of Personnel deployed on Operations by Service as at 1 May 2007 is in the following table.

Percentage deployed

	Provisional figures[1]
Naval Service	4
Army	17
RAF	7
Total	12

[1] Due to the introduction of a new joint personnel administration system (JPA) Naval Service and RAF trained strength data at 1 May 2007 are provisional and subject to review and Army data for 1 April and 1 May 2007 are not currently available.

Strength figures used in the above calculations are as at 1 May 2007 (Naval Service and RAF) and 1 March 2007 (Army) and comprise Trained UK Regular Forces only.

Deployment figures are as at 11 May 2007 (Op Banner) and 30 April 2007 (all other Operations) and comprise all UK Service Personnel in theatre (Regulars and Reserves). All deployment figures exclude Special Forces.

Theatres included comprise of Telic, Herrick, Banner, Oculus, GCT & UN Operations in Cyprus, Nepal, Georgia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sudan and Sierra Leone.

BAE Systems

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what topics were discussed at the meeting between Mike Turner, the Chief Executive of BAE Systems, and Lord Drayson, the Defence Procurement Minister, on 26 June; at what time this meeting *(a)* started and *(b)* ended; who requested the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [148376]

Des Browne: Lord Drayson chaired a meeting of the National Defence Industries Council on 26 June at which the Chief Executive of BAE Systems was present. The meeting started at 10 am and was concluded at 12 noon. The National Defence Industries Council meets regularly bringing together Ministers, senior officials and representatives from the defence industry. They discuss a range of topics of mutual interest.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of sick leave taken by staff in his Department was stress-related in each of the last three years. [145971]

Derek Twigg: The table shows the percentage of sick leave that was stress related taken by staff in his Department for each of the last three years.

We require our managers to assess the risk of stress, using the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards and best practice guidance. To better assess the risks we have recently worked with HSE and our trades' unions to pilot the HSE stress management package in several areas in the Department. Guidance for MOD on using the package will be rolled out during the summer.

Percentage of worker sickness absence that was stress related for civil servants in the Ministry of Defence calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006

	Percentage
2006[1,3]	19.4
2005[1,3]	18.3
2004[2,3]	17.1

[1] Percentage listed is based on the Cabinet Office definition for sickness absence working days lost. This Cabinet Office definition excludes annual leave allowance and bank holidays, and caps FTE sickness absence days across a year to a maximum of 225 days. Recording of absence data against this revised definition has only been carried out since calendar year 2005.

[2] Percentage listed is based on standardisation technique for sickness absence working days lost. This Standardisation technique involved adjusting unreasonably long absence lengths and removing obviously incorrect records.

[3] Excludes Ministry of Defence staff in Trading Funds and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

Explosions: Compensation

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many awards of compensation were paid for damage to property caused by explosions at Shoeburyness to residents living in *(a)* Maldon

District, *(b)* Chelmsford Borough, *(c)* Rochford District, *(d)* Colchester Borough, *(e)* Tendring District, *(f)* Southend on Sea, *(g)* Castlepoint District and *(h)* Kent in each year since 1995; [148151]

(2) how many claims for compensation were received for damage to property caused by explosions at Shoeburyness from residents living in *(a)* Maldon District, *(b)* Chelmsford Borough, *(c)* Rochford District, *(d)* Colchester Borough, *(e)* Tendring District, *(f)* Southend on Sea, *(g)* Castlepoint District and *(h)* Kent in each year since 1995. [148152]

Derek Twigg: Records on compensation are routinely destroyed after six years and information is only available from 2001. However, it is known that there have been no payments made since November 2004.

Available information for the period 2001-04 has to be collated from a number of sources within the Ministry of Defence. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as that information is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Exservicemen: Disabled

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are on the waiting list for a redress of their veterans disability entitlements. [148344]

Derek Twigg: Under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme there are two options available for armed forces personnel who are dissatisfied with the decision made on their claim.

They can ask Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to look at the decision again—this is called reconsideration. As at 30 June 2007 there were 48 cases awaiting completion of which 27 were from serving armed forces personnel.

They can appeal to the Pensions Appeal Tribunal, which is independent of the MOD. As at 30 June 2007 there were 43 cases awaiting appeal hearings of which 20 were from serving armed forces personnel.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the possible obligations the Government have to nuclear test veterans under the EU Directive Euratom 96/29. [148288]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* A resolution of the EU Parliament of 10 May 2007 called on member states to apply European Council Directive 96/29/Euratom on safety standards relating to ionising radiation. It is not legally binding, and the clearly stated position of this Government is that Euratom has no application to UK defence activities.

The UK Government, none the less, recognise their obligations to veterans of the UK nuclear tests. In particular, they have since 1983 commissioned three reports from the independent National Radiological Protection Board on possible adverse health effects of participation in these tests. These found no general effect on participants' expectation of life nor on risk of developing most cancers, though there was a small increase in risk of some leukaemias. The outcome of these studies is reflected in the MOD's handling of claims under the War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Schemes.

Military Police: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the approved complement is of Ministry of Defence police at Colchester Garrison; and what plans he has to change this complement. [146280]

Derek Twigg: The approved complement of Ministry of Defence police (MDP) at Colchester Garrison is:

1 x Inspector

5 x Sergeants

16 x Constables

These figures do not include Criminal Investigation Department Officers who are not part of the MDP complement at Colchester Garrison and not funded by Land Command. They are based in Colchester for administrative convenience and are responsible for investigating crime on defence estates in East Anglia.

The Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA) has recently conducted a complementing review to validate HQ Land Command proposals to rebalance Ministry of Defence police assets across its defence estate. Once Land Command and the MDPGA have agreed the way ahead the local community, Trade Unions and staff associations will be consulted. Once this process is completed I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Trident

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated ongoing in-service costs are of the Trident replacement over its 30 year life span how much is accounted for by *(a)* facilities and revenue costs at Aldermaston, *(b)* new missiles required to carry the warheads, *(c)* Military Defence Police (MDP) costs for guarding (i) Aldermaston, (ii) Burghfield and (iii) Coulport and *(d)* MDP costs for escorting the convoys; and if he will make a statement. [147835]

Des Browne: As paragraph 5-14 of the White Paper: 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (column 6994) makes clear, in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, including the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), will on average be around five to six per cent., of the defence budget once the proposed fleet of replacement SSBNs comes into service. Further information on the costs of replacing the Trident D5 missile and the costs of the AWE are included in paragraphs 5-11 and 5-13 of the White Paper respectively. The future costs of the Ministry of Defence Police for guarding Aldermaston, Burghfield and Coulport and for escorting nuclear convoys, which are included in the in-service cost mentioned above, are expected to be similar to today however, it is too early to provide a precise estimate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Public Transport

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what incentives he has considered to encourage staff in his Department to use public transport. [148798]

Margaret Hodge: The main incentives that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport offers are interest free loans to purchase season tickets for road/rail transport and purchase of bicycles for travel to work.

Use of public transport is encouraged by Departmental policies, including providing links to major travel and rail operators on our intranet site.

Football Association: World Cup

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what occasions *(a)* he or his predecessor, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* representatives of his Department met the Football Association to discuss an English bid for the 2018 World Cup (i) before the feasibility study by the Treasury and his Department into holding the World Cup in England began, (ii) while the study was in progress; and what such meetings have taken place since the study was completed. [148964]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Bidding to host a future World Cup is not a decision for Government but for the relevant football authorities. Ministers and representatives of this Department have not met with the Football Association (FA) to discuss an English bid for the 2018 World Cup. However, representatives of HM Treasury, this Department and the FA met on a number of occasions during the feasibility study to consult and discuss emerging issues. Since publication of the report my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) in his capacity as the Prime Minister's World Cup ambassador, has met the FA on a number of occasions to discuss circumstances relating to a potential FA bid for the World Cup.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what restrictions are to be put in place to prevent advertisements promoting gambling-related activities during children's television viewing hours. [148536]

James Purnell: The Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) has published a new code for gambling advertisers which puts in place strict controls to prohibit gambling advertising during or around children's programmes or programmes commissioned for, principally directed at or likely to appeal particularly to audiences below the age of 18. The new rules will be regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and come into effect on 1 September.

National Lottery: Grants

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications the Heritage Lottery Fund has received for projects that are run by *(a)* not-for-profit organisations and *(b)* all other organisations in each year since 1997. [148585]

Margaret Hodge: The number of applications received by the Heritage Lottery Fund that are run by not-for-profit and all other organisations per annum since 1997 are detailed in the following table.

Applications received by the Heritage Lottery Fund

Financial year	*Not-for-profit*[1]	*Other*[2]
1997-98	796	601
1998-99	1,431	739
1999-2000	2,848	327
2000-01	3,351	416
2001-02	2,134	371
2002-03	3,053	428
2003-04	3,251	620
2004-05	4,186	717
2005-06	5,818	594
2006-07	3,333	471

[1] Not for profit sector, including Churches and voluntary sector
[2] Includes public sector, central and local government

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grants have been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to projects that are run by *(a)* not-for-profit organisations and *(b)* all other organisations in each year since 1997. [148586]

Margaret Hodge: The number of grants awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund that are run by not-for-profit, and all other organisations per annum since 1997 are detailed in the following table.

Projects that have received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Financial year	*Not-for-profit*[1]	*Other*[2]
1997-98	425	384
1998-99	609	365
1999-2000	1,711	208
2000-01	1,894	280
2001-02	1,644	298
2002-03	1,881	365
2003-04	2,257	494
2004-05	3,018	590
2005-06	4,763	510
2006-07	2,359	390

[1] Not for profit sector, including Churches and voluntary sector
[2] Includes public sector, central and local government.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what verification process is used for projects that make applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund to assess the accuracy of *(a)* business plans and *(b)* budgets before awarding funding to a project; and if he will make a statement. [148587]

Margaret Hodge: Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) assesses business plans against key elements specified in its published guidance. These include relevance of the project to the aims of the applicant organisation, an analysis of the market for the project, financial appraisal, management

structure, assessment of risks to the project and systems for monitoring and evaluating the project.

Project budgets and financial information are assessed by a variety of measures including: the accuracy of cost breakdowns; the identification of eligible costs; calculation and identification of fees, contingencies, inflation and VAT; eligibility and accuracy of identified sunk costs and voluntary contributions; partnership and other funding secured; and the ability of the applicant to meet any funding shortfalls.

The level of detail required for business plans and budgets in applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund depends on the size of grant applied for.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the level of priority that the Heritage Lottery Fund gives to funding of private sector projects. [148588]

Margaret Hodge: Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) trustees determine priorities subject to the broad policy directions set by Government. HLF policy is to award grants to private owners where public benefit outweighs private gain.

The Commons Select Committee in its report 'Protecting and Preserving Our Heritage' supported this approach.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria the Heritage Lottery Fund uses to assess the viability of projects that have already received *(a)* public funding, *(b)* private funding and *(c)* Heritage Lottery Fund funding when considering applications for additional funding; and if he will make a statement. [148590]

Margaret Hodge: Heritage Lottery Fund assesses requests for additional funding (grant increases) by appraising the additional sum requested against the following criteria:

evidence that the costs relate to unforeseen and unforeseeable extra works;

that the costs faced are genuinely outside the grantee's control;

that the approved purposes of the project remain materially the same;

that the project still represents value for money; and

that the additional costs can not be met from other sources.

This assessment process is applied to all applications.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which providers will deliver support and advice to recently parted parents on making private arrangements for child maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [146689]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is not yet possible to identify who will provide the information and support service as the commissioning process has not yet started.

Chronically Sick: Employment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to bring forward provisions to strengthen the legal rights of people with *(a)* rheumatoid arthritis and *(b)* other chronic health conditions in the workplace. [147836]

Mrs. McGuire: We have no plans to extend the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as we have already fulfilled our commitment to put in place a comprehensive set of enforceable civil rights for disabled people. In particular, we extended and improved the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 from 1 October 2004 to bring all small employers and previously excluded occupations, except service in the armed forces, within the scope of employment provisions of the Act.

For a disabled person to benefit from the protection provided by the Disability Discrimination Act, they must meet the Act's definition of a disabled person. In general, the Act defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities. Someone with rheumatoid arthritis or a chronic health condition is protected by the Act if their condition meets this definition.

Incapacity Benefit: Assessments

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of his Department's progress in improving the adequacy of medical reports following recommendations made by the Committee of Public Accounts in its 27th Report of Session 2001-02. [147816]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable progress has been made since the Public Accounts Committee's report. The current contractor for medical services is ATOS Healthcare, and the contract for the provision of medical services now includes revised targets to help improve the quality of the medical reports as well as speed of response.

Training for the doctors involved has been improved and quality assurance arrangements have been enhanced. An IT system for the provision of evidence-based reports has been implemented. Sub-standard reports are returned to the contractor for rework. In addition, changes have now been made to legislation to allow for health care professionals, not just doctors, to carry out medical examinations, produce reports and to give advice across the range of disability benefits.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of public companies with underfunded company pension schemes. [149011]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimating the number of public companies with underfunded defined benefit company pension schemes is complicated by several factors. Identification of the sponsoring company is not straightforward since many schemes will be directly

connected to a subsidiary or holding company. In addition not only are valuations (and therefore deficits) calculated in different ways, they are not calculated frequently. Changes in the economic climate such as those we are seeing at the moment also alter the funding situation of schemes to a large degree.

In December 2006, the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund produced aggregate funding figures based on a group of defined benefit schemes in their joint publication 'The Purple Book'. While these figures do not cover every defined benefit scheme they are representative. This detailed publication can be found in the House of Commons Library and on the Pensions Regulator's website at:

customersupport@pensionsregular.gov.uk.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average proportion of *(a)* expected and *(b)* core pension being received is for people who have begun to receive their full-entitled payments under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [148601]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 6 July 2007, 247 people are receiving annual payments which top up the actual pension paid through an annuity from their pension scheme to at least 80 per cent. of their expected core pension subject to a cap of £12,000 per annum. A further 1,079 people are receiving initial payments at 60 per cent. of their expected core pension, which subject to Royal Assent of the current Pensions Bill will be increased to 80 per cent.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people eligible for initial payments, and whose pension scheme trustees have applied for initial payments, received such payments in each month since the scheme began operating; and if he will make a statement. [148248]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 29 June 2007, the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit (FASOU) has assessed all eligible members for whom the scheme trustees have provided acceptable data and has paid all members who have confirmed their personal details.

The following table reflects the cumulative number of members in receipt of Initial and Annual Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) payments from December 2005 until June 2007. The FASOU does not hold the requested information regarding the number of members in receipt of an initial payment as a proportion of those eligible for initial payments.

	Initial payments	*Annual payments*	*Total payments*
2005			
December	13	0	13
2006			
January	15	0	15
February	27	0	27
March	32	0	32
April	45	0	45
May	86	0	86
June	149	5	154
July	187	27	214
August	240	66	306
September	318	76	394
October	377	102	479
November	519	118	637
December	594	124	718
2007			
January	751	136	887
February	823	153	976
March	882	175	1,057
April	937	205	1,142
May	1,014	222	1,236
June	1,073	240	1,313

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of 65 years have died while their pension scheme has been going through *(a)* the qualification process for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) and *(b)* the qualification process to receive initial payments under the FAS; and if he will make a statement. [148249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit (FASOU) does not hold this information.

Personal Accounts

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analysis has been undertaken of the impact on future means-tested benefit entitlement for people on low incomes who save through his Department's personal account pension initiative. [146551]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions has undertaken extensive analysis on the impact of the proposed pension reforms on future entitlement to means-tested benefits and the interaction of these benefits with personal accounts. Such analysis has been presented in Projections of Pension Credit Entitlement, Financial Incentives to Save and the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Pensions Bill.

Note:

These publications are available on the DWP website at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/pensionsreform

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Day Care

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in lower-income

Beverley Hughes: The 2004-05 Childcare Survey showed that there were 614,000 children in lower income working families using formal childcare[1].

By 2008, the Department aims to increase the number of children in lower-income working families using formal childcare by 120,000 children from the 2004-05 baseline. This forms part of the PSA target to

'Safeguard children and young people, improve their life outcomes and general well-being, and break cycles of deprivation'

and will contribute to achieving this target by helping to reduce the proportion of children living in households where no one is working.

The figures showing progress towards this target will be available in September 2007 when the results of the 2007 Childcare Survey will be published.

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences, Research Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H. (2006). This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

Children: Unemployed

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of young children *(a)* in each Sure Start Local Programme area and *(b)* in England lived in households in which no-one was working in the latest period for which figures are available. [149236]

Beverley Hughes: Research published in June 2007 'Changes in the Characteristics of Sure Start Local Programme Areas between 2000-01 and 2004-05'[1] showed that, over the study period, there was a greater reduction in the SSLP areas compared to England in: (i) the percentage of children under four years living in workless households; (ii) the percentage in households in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance; (iii) the percentage in households in receipt of income support; and (iv) the overall percentage of working age adults receiving income support.

The average proportion of children under four living in workless households in SSLP areas dipped just below 40 per cent. in 2004-05, having started out at 45 per cent. in 2000-01. One third were living in a household in receipt of income support in 2004-05, down from 39 per cent. These levels were still higher than the average rates for England as a whole (22 per cent. of children under four living in workless households and 18 per cent. in households receiving income support) but did show significant improvement.

[1] Changes in the Characteristics of Sure Start Local Programme Areas between 2000-01 and 2004-05, June 2007. NESS Report 21; DfES HMSO Barnes, J (2007)

Financial Services: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his Department's plans to improve financial literacy in schools. [149121]

Beverley Hughes: It is important that all young people have access to good personal finance education, so that they leave school with the skills and confidence to manage their money well.

The recent HM Treasury strategy 'Financial Capability: the Government's long-term approach' set out a series of actions to improve financial capability in schools. This includes introducing a new, dedicated programme of study entitled 'Economic Well Being' as part of a revised curriculum for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education; publishing updated guidance for schools on the teaching of personal finance education; providing more support for teachers, by developing an extension module on financial capability within the PSHE continuous professional development programme; and developing curriculum materials to support the introduction of additional Child Trust Fund payments to seven-year-olds in 2009.

In addition, from 2010 we are introducing functional mathematics to the maths GCSE, which means that all pupils who achieve a grade C or above will have mastered the basics. We are also making £60 million funding available to secondary schools each year between 2005-06 and 2010-11 to provide a new focus on enterprise activity for pupils at key stage 4. Enterprise education helps young people to be creative and innovative and to take and manage risks with determination and drive, and is closely linked to financial capability in the school curriculum.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future of the Learning and Skills Council. [149136]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The machinery of government changes announced last week are designed to sharpen the Government's focus on the new and very different challenges that Britain will face in the years ahead. Great strides have been made in all aspects of education and skills over the past few years. But the significant challenges posed by the future demand new approaches.

To provide strong strategic leadership for the 14-19 phase overall planning responsibilities for that phase will transfer to the Department for Children, Schools and Families as will all funding for 14-19 learners with the exception of that for apprenticeships. Subject to consultation on the details and timing, to ensure there is no disruption to schools, colleges and training providers and the introduction of new diplomas, and the need to pass the necessary legislation, funding for school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and the contribution of FE colleges to the 14-19 phase will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities' ring-fenced education budgets.

To implement these changes for 14-19 policy and funding, we will need new legislation. As noted above, there will be consultation on the details and timing of the changes. In the short term, the LSC therefore remains responsible in law for the allocation of funds to all forms of post-16 education and training outside of higher education. The LSC has demonstrated in recent years a powerful focus on delivery and an excellent record in the management of public funds. In the interests of learners, schools and colleges, continuing that high performance will remain essential as we work through

to the new organisational arrangements. The LSC will have a central role to play in managing the transition successfully.

The new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) will lead work to deliver the Government's long-term vision to make Britain one of the best places in the world for science, research and innovation. It will also lead work to ensure that the nation has the skilled workforce it needs to compete in the global economy. In relation to post-19 education and training, we will consider, and consult on, the best way of delivering all of those functions and services that are necessary to support the FE sector and to achieve our skills ambitions. That will build on and sustain the progress made with the LSC over recent years in developing a demand-led approach that meets the needs of employers and learners, particularly through the successful Train to Gain programme.

In taking forward these changes, we will work closely with the LSC and other national partners along with schools, colleges and training providers, to ensure the changes are well managed and sustain institutional autonomy. We will take the opportunity to review how the funding and accountability framework can best support initiative and high performance both at institutional level and across the FE sector as a whole.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Bournemouth are under special measures; and how long this has been the case in each instance. [148545]

Jim Knight: There is currently one school in the Bournemouth local authority that requires special measures. This is Townsend Primary and Nursery School which has been in this Ofsted category since November 2005.

Students: Loans

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the projected cost of all previous and proposed student loan sales to the public purse over their lifetime with respect to *(a)* interest subsidies and *(b)* the difference in cost between purchasing the loans by third parties and the face value of the loans. [147267]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

We are at the early stages of implementing the Budget announcement to sell income-contingent student loans. Further details will be announced in due course. Meanwhile we are confident that the Government will obtain good value for money, as it is obliged to do by rules of Government accounting.

In 1998, the Government received £1 billion for the sale of student loans with a face value of £1.02 billion. In 1999, the Government received £1 billion for the sale of student loans with a face value of £1.03 billion. These are figures for the UK as a whole, as loans administration had not then been devolved.

Over the lifetime of the loans, the total gross payments of interest and other subsidies to the debt owners, in respect of loans made to English and Welsh domiciled students, is estimated at £635 million in 1998/99 net present value (NPV) terms. After deducting the interest subsidy costs, which the Government would still have incurred if the loans had not been sold, the estimated net lifetime costs of the sale for interest and other subsidies are £125 million in 1998/99 NPV terms. This assumes the current relevant Treasury discount rate of 3.5 per cent.

The discount rate at the time of the sales was 6.0 per cent. Using this rate would have resulted in future cash flows having lesser value, which would have made the sales more attractive to the Government. The estimated total gross payments of interest and other subsidies would have been £545 million, with a net estimated lifetime saving of £130 million. The actual final cost/saving will depend on the performance of the sold loans over their remaining life.

Note:

All figures are quoted in respect of England and Wales unless otherwise stated.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds were not in education employment or training, broken down by (i) parliamentary constituency, (ii) local education authority and (iii) region in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [147034]

Beverley Hughes: The Department's estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to regional or local authority level. However, we can give an indication of the number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET from data provided by Connexions services, and this is given in the following table.

Data provided by Connexions services are used to set and monitor local authority NEET targets. However, it should be noted that figures are calculated on a different basis from that used in the Department's estimates, and therefore do not give the same totals.

Information cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency, nor is it available at local authority level and age before 2005.

Number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET—December 2005 and 2006

As at December each year

	Age 16		*Age 17*		*Age 18*	
	2005	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*
South East region	3,720	3,290	6,160	5,440	5,000	5,470
Bracknell Forest	50	30	100	60	80	80
Reading	140	90	210	160	190	130

Number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET—December 2005 and 2006

As at December each year

	Age 16		*Age 17*		*Age 18*	
	2005	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*
Windsor and Maidenhead	40	30	70	60	70	50
Slough	100	60	140	90	150	90
West Berkshire	70	60	120	90	90	90
Wokingham	50	40	90	50	80	60
Kent	710	640	1,230	1,140	950	1,190
Medway	190	130	350	290	280	240
Buckinghamshire	100	90	210	160	220	190
Milton Keynes	130	100	220	180	200	180
Oxfordshire	200	230	370	330	320	330
Portsmouth	150	90	220	200	160	180
Southampton	190	180	340	250	190	230
Isle of Wight	70	60	90	100	80	110
Hampshire	580	570	810	850	530	800
Surrey	250	250	410	360	340	310
Brighton and Hove	170	150	290	280	290	290
East Sussex	280	250	450	460	440	490
West Sussex	260	240	440	390	370	420
London region	3,830	3,250	7,090	6,040	7,180	6,760
Camden	80	80	180	140	190	160
Islington	120	110	250	210	260	210
Kensington and Chelsea	30	40	70	80	90	80
Lambeth	140	100	300	200	350	210
Southwark	120	120	290	250	320	230
Wandsworth	90	80	180	150	180	160
Westminster	110	50	140	100	130	110
Barking and Dagenham	180	160	290	280	250	290
Bexley	150	140	230	180	220	140
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	10
Greenwich	180	170	350	280	370	360
Hackney	130	120	280	240	330	290
Havering	150	130	270	230	200	200
Lewisham	140	60	260	190	260	230
Newham	210	210	360	360	310	380
Redbridge	130	90	200	180	230	180
Tower Hamlets	150	130	300	280	410	290
Barnet	120	120	210	160	260	230
Enfield	180	140	320	250	320	300
Haringey	140	130	270	230	290	270
Waltham Forest	100	120	230	230	200	170
Bromley	90	100	210	190	190	200
Croyden	210	170	370	310	340	350
Kingston	40	30	70	80	80	70
Merton	60	40	80	80	80	70
Richmond	40	30	50	60	60	50
Sutton	70	70	150	120	150	140
Brent	60	60	140	140	160	230
Ealing	100	100	210	180	200	220
Hammersmith and Fulham	130	50	170	120	170	130
Harrow	80	40	140	130	150	170
Hillingdon	180	140	350	220	280	340
Hounslow	110	100	200	210	230	270
East of England region	2,980	2,620	5,130	4,620	4,890	4,840
Bedfordshire	210	190	340	310	360	360
Luton	100	100	240	210	260	280
Cambridgeshire	220	200	350	340	370	330
Peterborough	140	110	270	230	260	270
Essex	850	610	1,360	1,120	1,240	1,130

Number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET—December 2005 and 2006

	Age 16		Age 17		As at December each year Age 18	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Thurrock	140	90	200	180	180	160
Southend	120	100	230	210	200	220
Hertfordshire	420	360	700	590	620	640
Norfolk	410	470	750	770	710	790
Suffolk	370	370	670	650	690	710
South West region	2,320	2,270	3,970	3,670	3,640	3,680
Bournemouth	90	110	130	140	110	140
Dorset	170	200	240	290	240	280
Poole	60	90	120	90	100	90
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	280	230	430	400	470	460
Devon	310	300	520	530	440	450
Plymouth	180	140	310	270	300	280
Torbay	60	80	110	130	100	100
Gloucestershire	240	210	460	360	510	380
Somerset	220	180	360	300	290	260
Bath and NE Somerset	70	50	120	100	120	120
Bristol	200	180	450	350	370	410
North Somerset	60	60	100	90	110	100
South Gloucestershire	110	90	180	150	150	140
Swindon	90	140	190	210	130	230
Wiltshire	180	210	250	270	210	240
West Midlands region	3,880	3,310	6,520	6,170	6,570	6,390
Birmingham	980	780	1,690	1,460	1,880	1,630
Solihull	200	150	310	260	370	260
Dudley	260	220	340	340	320	270
Sandwell	310	230	400	470	330	440
Walsall	240	190	400	350	320	320
Wolverhampton	210	210	430	380	370	340
Coventry	200	190	390	360	390	380
Warwickshire	250	280	400	440	370	450
Herefordshire	70	70	170	100	140	120
Worcestershire	250	180	430	350	390	340
Shropshire	120	80	190	180	160	170
Telford and Wrekin	120	130	180	200	210	200
Staffordshire	410	390	710	730	770	890
Stoke on Trent	270	230	530	530	550	610
East Midlands region	2,380	2,120	4,020	3,490	3,730	3,530
Derby City	190	150	340	310	310	240
Derbyshire	370	330	660	540	620	560
Leicester City	270	260	540	480	440	500
Leicestershire County	300	280	470	390	410	390
Lincolnshire	320	260	510	450	450	460
Rutland	—	10	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	400	310	660	530	710	550
Nottinghamshire	330	290	480	480	430	460
Nottingham City	190	200	350	340	370	380
Yorks and the Humber region	3,760	3,600	6,730	6,280	6,370	6,210
East Riding	100	130	210	250	190	220
Kingston upon Hull	270	240	570	500	620	550
North East Lincolnshire	120	140	260	260	270	220
North Lincolnshire	80	110	200	210	210	240
Barnsley	240	190	410	340	320	370
Doncaster	330	310	500	480	400	370
Rotherham	250	270	400	430	320	420
Sheffield	390	320	680	620	680	680

Number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds NEET—December 2005 and 2006

	Age 16		Age 17		As at December each year Age 18	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Bradford	370	380	690	630	740	540
Calderdale	110	120	260	210	270	300
Kirklees	310	290	530	520	580	620
Leeds	570	510	970	880	950	820
Wakefield	350	290	550	520	380	380
City of York	90	100	140	140	130	140
County of North Yorkshire	190	190	360	290	300	320
North West region	4,690	4,730	8,460	7,960	8,160	8,480
Cheshire	330	290	470	490	460	430
Warrington	120	90	200	180	190	170
Cumbria	220	200	390	300	470	400
Bolton	270	300	450	440	390	440
Bury	130	140	220	210	200	190
City of Manchester	430	390	760	650	640	700
Oldham	160	170	280	280	260	270
Rochdale	190	160	330	290	280	240
City of Salford	180	180	320	340	210	210
Stockport	140	200	250	280	210	300
Trafford	110	110	190	180	170	180
Tameside	180	170	300	280	230	230
Wigan	280	280	420	440	430	420
Halton	80	110	190	180	220	230
Knowsley	110	130	220	250	320	300
Liverpool	370	370	760	760	880	920
Sefton	170	140	310	300	330	390
St. Helens	160	130	270	250	260	290
Wirral	180	240	460	420	470	530
Greater Merseyside	1,080	1,130	2,200	2,150	2,470	2,660
Blackburn-Darwen	110	130	260	210	260	250
Blackpool	130	140	280	230	210	250
Lancashire County	660	630	1,200	1,050	1,100	1,150
North East region	2,190	1,960	4,140	3,710	4,350	4,570
County Durham	440	410	780	740	880	900
Northumberland	180	170	360	360	400	440
Darlington	80	60	160	130	130	120
Stockton on Tees	160	110	270	220	280	270
Middlesbrough	170	140	350	290	360	450
Hartlepool	80	70	130	160	160	200
Redcar and Cleveland	110	130	230	200	250	280
Sunderland	290	250	510	490	570	580
Gateshead	160	140	320	260	330	350
Newcastle	250	250	470	410	430	460
North Tyneside	160	140	290	250	260	300
South Tyneside	120	100	260	200	320	240

Source:
CCIS

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what additional student numbers were awarded for *(a)* foundation degrees and *(b)* honours degrees in each of the last five years, broken down by educational institution. [147932]

Bill Rammell: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Degrees: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the non-completion rates were for *(a)* female full-time students studying for first degrees, *(b)* female part-time students and *(c)* male full-time students studying for first degrees, broken down by qualification on entry in the last period for which figures are available. [148121]

Bill Rammell: Projected non-completion rates are released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency

(HESA) each year within the Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication. The latest available non-completion projections are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

Academic year	*Percentage*
1999/2000	15.9
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	14.1
2002/03	14.4
2003/04	14.9

Source:
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education', published by HESA

The 2004-05 figure will be released by HESA on 19th July 2007. These non-completion rates are not available broken down by gender or entry qualification. Drop-out is more likely to occur during the first year of higher education. The performance indicators also include non-continuation rates, which show the proportion of entrants who are not detected in higher education after their first year. The latest available non-continuation rates are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK HEIs not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	*Percentage*
1999/2000	7.8
2000/01	7.1
2001/02	7.3
2002/03	7.8
2003/04	7.7

Source:
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education', published by HESA

The 2004-05 figure will be released by HESA on 19 July 2007. The 2002-03 and 2003-04 non-continuation rates are available broken down by entry qualification, as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Percentage of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degrees in UK HEIs in 2002-03 and 2003-04 not continuing in higher education after their first year

Entry qualification Categories	*Tariff points*	*Entrants 2002-03*	*Entrants 2003-04*
A-levels or Highers:	Unknown	11.3	12.6
	Up to 200	11.7	11.9
	201 to 290	7.9	8.1
	291 to 380	4.9	5.3
	Above 380	2.6	2.8
Other qualifications	—	11.4	11.6
All qualifications	—	7.8	7.7

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

The 2003-04 non-continuation rate is available broken down by gender, as shown in table 4.

Table 4: Percentage of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degrees in UK HEIs in 2003-04 not continuing in higher education after their first year

	Rate	*Benchmark*
Female	6.7	7.3
Male	8.8	8.1
Total	7.7	—

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Comparable projected non-completion rates and non-continuation rates after first year are not calculated for part time students.

Degrees: Social Structure

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of people aged *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 21 to 24, *(e)* 25 to 30 and *(f)* over 30-years-old from each socio-economic group were in higher education in each year since 1997. [148161]

Bill Rammell: The Full-time Young Participation by Socio-Economic Class (FYPSEC) measure shows the proportion of English-domiciled people aged 18-20 from the top three and bottom four socio-economic classes who have participated for the first time in full-time higher education at UK Higher Education Institutions and English Further Education Colleges. A student's socio-economic class is based on his/her higher-earning parent's occupation. The latest available figures are shown in the table:

FYPSEC: 2002/03 to 2005/06

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
NS-SEC 1-3	44.6	41.5	41.5	43.3
NS-SEC 4-7	17.6	17.9	17.7	19.9

It should be noted that a significant proportion of students are from unknown socio-economic backgrounds. The FYPSEC measure uses postcode as a proxy for those with unknown socio-economic class in order to make an informed estimate of their social background. The figures quoted above therefore reflect information collected by UCAS through the application process and an estimate, based on postcode, for those where the information is not provided at application. Further information on the measure is available in the following research report:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR806.pdf

Figures are not available for earlier years than 2002/03 because the National Statistics socio-economic classification was introduced in 2001, and was not obtained for higher education students until 2002/03.

Figures are not available for people over the age of 20 because the coverage of the socio-economic class data for older people is relatively low. Figures are not available for part-time students because they do not apply through UCAS and as such their socio-economic class is not recorded during their application process.

Departmental Responsibilities

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's responsibilities are for technology. [148750]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) now leads on technological innovation, including sponsorship of the Technology Strategy Board and investment in research, science, innovation and skills. The Department works closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure that business can take full advantage of technological developments to enable it to compete successfully in the global economy.

Departments: Committees

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the European Community committees and working groups for which his Department will be responsible. [148213]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) will have responsibility for the work of three formal Council working groups: Education Committee (jointly with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)), the Research and Atomic Questions working group and the ad hoc European Institute of Technology working group. In addition to formal Council working groups, there are also a number of advisory committees, which provide advice to the European Commission on policy matters and aid the Commission in the implementation of Community legislation. A list of the key committees for which DIUS has responsibility is attached at Annexe A.

Annexe A:

Key European Community committees, for which DIUS is responsible:

Advisory Committee on Vocational Training;

Committee of the integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning (jointly with DCSF);

Youth in Action Committee (jointly with DCSF);

TEMPUS Committee;

Programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through co-operation with third countries (Erasmus Mundus);

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) Governing Board;

European Training Foundation (ETF) Governing Board;

Innovation Policy Advisory Board;

Enterprise and Innovation Programme Management Committee for the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (jointly with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR));

Horizontal Programme Committee for implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities;

Programme Committee for the execution of the specific programme 'Co-operation', implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (jointly with BERR, the Department for Health, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Transport, and the Home Office);

Programme Committee for the execution of the specific programme 'Capacities', implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities;

Programme Committee for the execution of the specific programme 'People', implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities;

Programme Committee for the execution of the specific programme 'Ideas', implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities;

Consultative Committee for the execution of the specific programme implementing the 7th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities (2007-11);

Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre;

European Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST).

Departments: Council of Ministers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the agenda of the next Council of Ministers which he will be attending. [148214]

Bill Rammell: The next EU Council of Ministers for which the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will have some responsibility will be Competitiveness Council on 27-28 September. Ministers will discuss the following items:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Institute of Technology;

Proposal for Council Decision on Joint Technology Initiative: Innovative Medicines (IMI);

Proposal for Council Decision on Joint Technology Initiative: Embedded Computing Systems (ARTEMIS);

Proposal for Council Decision on Joint Technology Initiative: Aeronautics and Air Transport (Clean Sky);

Proposal for Council Decision on Joint Technology Initiative: Nanoelectronics (ENIAC);

Proposals for European Parliament and Council Decisions for initiatives according to Art. 169 of the Treaty (Ambient Assisted Living);

Proposals for European Parliament and Council Decisions for initiatives according to Art. 169 of the Treaty (EuroSTARS);

Commission Communication on the Mid-Term Review of the Industrial Policy;

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/47/EC on the protection of purchasers in respect of certain aspects of contracts relating to the purchase of the right to use immovable properties on a timeshare basis.

Responsibility for these items will be shared between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. No decision has yet been made on ministerial attendance.

Departments: EU Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the draft legislation under discussion at EU level pertaining to his Department; and what the current status is of each item. [148218]

Bill Rammell: The following items of draft legislation pertaining to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are currently being discussed at EU level:

Proposal for a Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning. A General Approach was agreed by Education Council on 15 November 2006; political agreement with European Parliament is expected at Education Council on 15-16 November 2007.

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries (Erasmus Mundus) (2009-14). A General Approach is expected to be agreed at Education Council on 15-16 November 2007.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council establishing the European Institute of Technology. A General Approach was agreed by Competitiveness Council on 25 June 2007.

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Proposal for a Council Regulation setting up the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking. An exchange of views is expected at the September Competitiveness Council.

Proposal for a Council Regulation setting up the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking. An exchange of views is expected at the September Competitiveness Council.

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of the "ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking" to implement a Joint Technology Initiative in Embedded Computing Systems. An exchange of views is expected at the September Competitiveness Council.

Proposal for a Council Regulation setting up the "ENIAC Joint Undertaking". An exchange of views is expected at the September Competitiveness Council.

Proposal (on the basis of Article 169 of the EC Treaty) for a decision of the European Parliament and Council on the participation by the Community in a research and development programme aimed at enhancing the quality of life of older people through the use of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), undertaken by several member states (Ambient Assisted Living). An exchange of views is expected at the September Competitiveness Council.

Education: Prisoners

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will assess the merits of giving prisoners access to virtual classroom technology; and if he will make a statement. [147351]

Mr. Lammy: "Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps", published jointly by the former Department for Education and Skills, the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions in December 2006 gave a clear commitment to improve the use of technology in delivering teaching and learning to offenders in custody, as well as offering more widespread access to ICT qualifications.

Two test bed regions—the West Midlands and the East of England—will take forward implementation of the programme of action set out in the Next Steps document from this summer, supported by £500,000 of development funding I am making available.

Educational Institutions: Sustainable Development

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the rules relating to capital funding announced in the Learning and Skills Council news release issue 411 came into force. [147492]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council has advised that the criteria relating to capital funding announced in its news release issue 411 will be in force by September 2007.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria have to be fulfilled by a further education college applying to receive the additional 5 per cent. of building costs for sustainable development announced in Learning and Skills Council news release 411; and whether this funding is in addition to the cost allowance of up to 10 per cent. available for addressing sustainability issues as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the Learning and Skills capital handbook. [147493]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has advised that the total allowance available to further education colleges for addressing sustainability issues is 10 per cent. of net building cost, as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the LSC's capital handbook. To qualify for LSC capital funds, all proposals are required to address sustainable development by meeting a number of criteria:

Meeting, and preferably exceeding, the requirements of part L of the Building Regulations.

Ensuring that completed development meets the criteria to achieve at least 'very good' Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) ratings. From September this year a rating of 'excellent' will be mandatory.

Maximising the use of natural lighting, ventilation and rainwater.

Embedding the principles of sustainability in the design of buildings and building systems.

The criteria that further education colleges have to fulfil in order to receive the additional 10 per cent. cost allowance are not formally specified. Colleges are instead asked to provide a sustainability statement listing the elements of the proposed project which address the sustainability agenda. The statement should include how the proposed design addresses sustainability issues outside the remit of current building regulations. The college should also identify the specific costs of those elements of the building.

Further Education: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has, following the restructuring of the Learning and Skills Council, to ensure there is sufficient Government expenditure on post-16 year old skills training within the Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [148675]

Bill Rammell: As set out in 'Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation', to provide strong strategic leadership for the 14-19 phase overall

planning responsibilities for that phase will transfer to the Department for Children, Schools and Families as will all funding for 14-19 learners with the exception of that for apprenticeships. Subject to consultation on the details and timing, to ensure there is no disruption to schools, colleges and training providers and the introduction of new diplomas, and the need to pass the necessary legislation, funding for school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and the contribution of FE colleges to the 14-19 phase will transfer from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities' ring-fenced education budgets.

In relation to post-19 education and training, we will consider, and consult on, the best way of delivering all of those functions and services that are necessary to support the FE sector and to achieve our skills ambitions. That will build on and sustain the progress made with the LSC over recent years in developing a demand-led approach that meets the needs of employers and learners, particularly through the successful Train to Gain programme.

Higher Education: China

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many English universities have campuses in *(a)* China and *(b)* India. [149201]

Bill Rammell: I am aware of two English universities with campuses in China. There are none in India since foreign providers are not currently permitted to set up there. There are of course many institutions with partnership arrangements with their counterparts in both China and India. DIUS is working with the devolved administrations to conduct a survey of UK higher education institutions that will show the scale and pattern of overseas provision by domestic institutions including which institutions have campuses in other countries. The survey is currently in the field and first results are expected to be available in September 2007.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much Learning and Skills Council funding there was for non-prescribed higher education courses in each of the last 10 years. [149094]

Bill Rammell: Over the last 10 years, we have increased total funding for higher education by over 20 per cent. in real terms and now spend £10 billion a year, although the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England are responsible for the distribution of funding to support different courses. Both organisations have made important contributions to developing effective progression pathways for people looking to continue learning beyond level 3 either through further or higher education and are working together to assess the issues relating to the current funding of higher level skills provision.

The LSC is generally responsible for funding non-prescribed HE courses in FE colleges. Information on the funding for non-prescribed higher education courses is not currently available.

Research: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to maintain the dual-support system. [149491]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister informed the House on 28 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 36WS, the Government have no plans to change the current dual support arrangements for the public funding of research.

Skilled Workers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 sectors of employment have the greatest acknowledged skills shortage; and what the manpower shortfall is in each case. [148204]

Bill Rammell: The 2005 National Employer Skills Survey collected data from 74,500 employers in England about vacancies which were hard to fill because of a lack of suitably skilled applicants. This is felt to be the best measure of skill shortages. The data in the following table shows the Sector Skills Councils with the greatest numbers of skill shortages. To an extent, this merely reflects the size of the sectors so the second table shows the 10 sectors with the greatest numbers of skill shortages per 1,000 employees.

10 sectors with the largest numbers of skill shortages

Sector skills council	*Number of skill shortage vacancies*
People 1st (Hospitality, leisure, travel, tourism)	12,900
ConstructionSkills (Construction)	11,900
Skillsmart Retail (Retail)	9,425
Skills for Care and Development (Social care, children and young people)	7,725
SEMTA (Science, engineering and manufacturing technologies)	6,675
E-skills UK (IT and telecommunications)	6,650
Skills for Health (all health sector)	6,625
Financial Services	4,450
Asset Skills (property services, housing, cleaning services, facilities management)	4,100
Automotive Skills (Retail motor industry)	4,000
All England	143,125

10 sectors with the most skill shortages per 1,000 employees

Sector skills council	*Skill shortage vacancies per 1,000 employees*	*Numbers of skill shortage vacancies*
SummitSkills (Building services engineering)	13	2,825
ConstructionSkills (Construction)	12	11,900
Skills for Care and Development (Social care, children and young people)	10	7,725
E-skills UK (IT and telecommunications)	10	6,650
Automotive Skills (Retail motor industry)	9	4,000
GoSkills (Passenger transport)	9	3,475
Lantra (Environmental and land-based industries)	8	2,350
People 1st (Hospitality, leisure, travel, tourism)	8	12,900
Creative and Cultural Skills (Advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, the arts and music)	7	1,450
SkillsActive (Active leisure and learning)	6	1,550
All England	7	143,125

Skilled Workers: Unemployment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 sectors of employment have the greatest acknowledged skills excess; and if he will estimate the level of unemployment in each sector. [148203]

Bill Rammell: We do not have information on skill surpluses by sector as such. However, comparing unemployment rate between sectors gives some indication of relative skill supply by sector. The following table shows estimates for 2006 of the unemployment rate and level by sector for each of the 23 sectors that can be identified using the Annual Population Survey sorted in descending order of unemployment rate.

Unemployment by sector

	Unemployment rate[1] (percentage)	*Number unemployed*
Not Classified[2]	9.0	615,000
Skillfast—UK (Apparel, footwear, textiles and related businesses industry)	7.9	16,000
People 1st (Hospitality, leisure, travel, tourism)	7.4	94,000
Improve (Food and drink)	5.7	18,000
Skillsmart (Retail)	5.6	145,000
Proskills (Process and manufacturing)	5.5	19,000
Skillset (Audio visual industries)	5.0	8,000
Skills for Logistics	4.9	38,000
Cogent (Chemical, nuclear, oil and gas, petroleum industries)	4.8	23,000
Asset Skills (Property services, housing, cleaning services and facilities management)	3.9	24,000
SEMTA (Science, engineering and manufacturing technologies)	3.8	55,000
Automotive Skills (Retail motor industry)	4.9	19,000
Energy and Utility Skills (Electricity, gas, waste management and water industries)	3.8	11,000
Construction Skills (Construction)	3.7	82,000
Creative and Cultural Skills (Advertising, crafts, cultural heritage, design, the arts and music)	3.7	7,000
SkillsActive (Active leisure and learning)	3.4	9,000
Skills for Care and Development (Social care, children and young people)	3.4	40,000
E-skills UK (IT and communications)	3.1	23,000
Lantra (Environmental and land-based industries)	2.9	10,000
Financial Services	3.0	31,000
GoSkills (Passenger transport)	2.6	15,000
Lifelong learning UK (Employers who deliver and/or support the delivery of lifelong learning)	2.1	15,000
Skills for Health (all health sector)	1.8	30,000
Skills for Justice (Custodial care, community justice, court and prosecution services, policing and law enforcement)	1.0	4,000
All England	5.4	1,349,000

[1] Numerator for unemployment rate is number seeking and available for work whose last job was in the sector concerned. Denominator is numerator plus number employed in that sector.
[2] Includes Summit Skills (building services engineering).
Source:
Annual Population Survey, 2006

Students: Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what measures the Government has introduced to ensure repayment of student loans by EU domiciled students. [148192]

Bill Rammell: EU loan repayments will be collected by the Student Loans Company (SLC), which already has experience of recovering loans from UK borrowers who go overseas and from EEA migrant workers who are entitled to loans. All borrowers from September 2006 enter a contract with the SLC which is enforceable under UK law which, under EC regulation 44/2001, can also be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Governance and Transparency Fund

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the Governance and Transparency Fund is expected to be released in year 1. [148168]

Mr. Malik: The budget for the Governance and Transparency Fund is £100 million over the next five years. The amount of funding released in Year 1 will be dependent on the proposals supported and how quickly successful applicants propose to begin activities.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to announce which organisations were successful in their applications for funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund. [148171]

Mr. Malik: We expect to announce which organisations were successful in their applications for funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund by early December 2007.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many successful applicants there have been for funding from the Governance and Transparency Fund; and how much funding has been awarded to each organisation. [148175]

Mr. Malik: We will not make funding decisions on applications to the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) until early December 2007. We will publish full details of supported proposals and organisations on the DFID website once we have informed all applicants of our decision.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what decisions have been made about the eligibility for restored EU funding of Palestinian Authority employees in Gaza who were receiving allowances under the Temporary International Mechanisms before 15 June 2007. [148956]

Mr. Malik: The Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) has recently been extended until the end of September 2007. Allowances for Palestinian

Authority (PA) workers for the month of June were paid during the week commencing 2 July 2007. Workers in both the West Bank and Gaza were paid.

On 18 June, EU Foreign Ministers discussed the resumption of assistance to the PA. They concluded that the EU should urgently pursue options for direct practical and financial assistance. Further TIM payments, targeting the same beneficiaries, will form part of this assistance.

The EU has not yet decided on other means for delivering aid. The UK will press to ensure that any new EU aid meets the needs of Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007 to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson), *Official Report*, columns 184-85W, on Palestinians: international assistance, how many of the 71,000 Palestinian authority employees receiving allowances under the temporary international mechanism received them in *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* the West Bank. [148974]

Mr. Malik: Of the 77,000 Palestinian Authority workers and pensioners receiving allowances under the Temporary International Mechanism, about 47,000 live in the West Bank and 30,000 in Gaza.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to Somalia is *(a)* agricultural and *(b)* medical in nature. [148777]

Mr. Thomas: Provisional total UK bilateral expenditure to Somalia in 2006-07 was £16.6 million. Of this total £0.8 million (4.6 per cent.) went to the health sector. The UK is scaling up its support to the health sector in 2007-08 and has recently committed £2.3 million over two years to increase the number and quality of health workers in Somaliland. There was no direct support to the agricultural sector. Nearly half of the UK's aid budget in 2006-07 went on humanitarian activities (£7.6 million, 45.8 per cent.), a proportion of which may be used for health or agriculture related activities.

The UK also contributes to a range of multilateral organisations that operate in Somalia; these contributions cannot be broken down to sectors.

Sudan: Crimes Against Humanity

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the long-term support needed for the provision of psychosocial care for victims of torture and sexual violence in Darfur. [148292]

Mr. Thomas: The scale of long-term psychosocial support that will be needed in Darfur is unknown because of the level of ongoing displacement, leading to gender-based violence and other forms of trauma. However, there will clearly be a need for such support programmes in the future. Fuller assessments of need can only be undertaken when the security situation improves, although until that time immediate response projects will continue.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to support the provision of psychosocial care for victims of torture and sexual violence in Darfur. [148293]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has supported psychosocial care in Darfur through a number of methods. Through our direct support to non-government organisations (NGOs) in Darfur, totalling around £12 million a year, several of our partners run psychosocial support projects for women, particularly through women's centres in the camps for displaced people. Additionally, provision of health care to those in need, including victims of sexual violence, is a central activity of many of our partners' work.

DFID is also the leading contributor, contributing £40 million in 2007, to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), a pioneering fund that allows the UN to allocate resources to the most urgent humanitarian needs across Sudan. The CHF has so far allocated around £600,000 to the UN Population Fund in Darfur in support of victims of gender based violence. In 2007, the CHF has also channelled a further £19 million to Darfur in support of humanitarian activities there.

The UK is playing a prominent role in seeking an end to the abuse of civilians in Darfur, both by calling for a renewed political process and seeking the rapid deployment of a robust joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force.

Thailand: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to Thailand goes to pro-democracy groups. [148780]

Mr. Malik: The UK does not provide direct development assistance to Thailand, which is an established Middle Income Country, and has not done so for more than 10 years.

Tsunamis: Early Warning Systems

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by international partners in developing a tsunami early warning system in the South Pacific. [148781]

Mr. Malik: The Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG), comprising 30 countries including South Pacific nations such as Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, oversees the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS). Kiribati, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Vanuatu have applied for membership of ICG.

The ICG relies heavily on the PTWS, which was set up by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration following the 1946 Alaska tsunami. The PTWS was most recently activated following the earthquake off the Solomon Islands in June 2007.

The UK Government are supporting the restoration of old weather, climate and upper air observing equipment in the Pacific Islands with other partners, including New Zealand and the United States. This will improve the accuracy and speed of severe weather warnings and early warning systems. This should lead to a reduction in the number of deaths and damage to property from weather and climate related natural disasters.

More broadly, DFID is working closely with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) on disaster risk reduction initiatives internationally. This includes setting up the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), which began operation in July 2006.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for installing a telecommunications mast were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each London borough in each of the last five years. [148010]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 780W, on departmental travel, how many foreign trips have been taken by officials from her Department since 1 April 2007; and to which locations and for what purpose in each case. [145116]

Mr. Iain Wright: Of the 23 journeys overseas undertaken by staff since April 2007 on official business, 21 were to Europe, 1 to the USA and 1 to Kenya. All overseas journeys require the approval of the appropriate deputy director. The purposes of these journeys was to represent the Department and provide expert advice on policy issues.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in her Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146083]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials throughout the Department for Communities and Local Government are involved in a full range of EU business. Those working specifically on EU business in the Regional, Urban and Economic Policy Directorate total 321. This works out at 26 for those working in CLG and around 296 for those administering ERDF in the Government Offices. A breakdown of the figures as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at her Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost of those bonuses was. [146427]

Mr. Iain Wright: The historical numbers of bonuses paid to senior civil servants and the cost of these are given in the following table. The data for 2003 to 2005 refers to our predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Data are only available for the five years shown in the table.

	Number of bonuses	*Cost of bonuses (£)*
2007	104	686,000
2006	88	534,000
2005	86	425,900
2004	71	342,000
2003	60	270,300

In Communities and Local Government, bonus payments are made to individuals whose contribution has a significant impact on the Department's performance across the year. Personal contribution is assessed against a range of factors that include:

Achievement of the Department's Prime Objective which focuses on the way in which our leaders manage and develop our people;

The degree to which business objectives have been met;

Delivery for Ministers;

Demonstration of judgment, leadership and PSG skills;

Effective resource management

Floods: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with local authorities in Shropshire on special funding support to tackle the aftermath of the recent floods. [147693]

John Healey: We have been in contact with South Shropshire district council to provide advice and guidance on the procedures to follow to claim emergency financial support through the Bellwin scheme, and are ready to consider any application.

The district council registered their intention to claim on 2 July 2007.

Government Office for the South West

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running cost was of the Government Office of the South West in each of the last five years. [147947]

John Healey *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The running cost for the Government Office for the South West over the last five years is as follows:

	Amount (£)
2006-07	14,684,860
2005-06	14,823,083
2004-05	14,607,000
2003-04	13,858,840
2002-03	11,800,000

Government Offices for the Regions

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people work for each of the Government offices for the regions; and what the staff cost is of each in 2007-08. [149404]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of permanent, fixed term and casual staff working for each Government office for the regions, including those temporarily away from the office on secondment, loan, maternity leave, career break and special leave without pay, in June 2007 was as follows:

	Number
GO East of England	226
GO East Midlands	229
GO London	264
GO North East	264
GO North West	288
GO South East	289
GO South West	273
GO West Midlands	260
GO Yorkshire and the Humber	241
Total	2,334

The estimated staffing costs for each Government office for 2007-08 are:

	£ million
GO East of England	8.85
GO East Midlands	8.54
GO London	11.99
GO North East	9.60
GO North West	12.58
GO South East	11.69
GO South West	10.51
GO West Midlands	10.58
GO Yorkshire and the Humber	9.41
Total	93.75

Housing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on housing, what proportion of the allocation to social housing in the Chelmsford local authority area was given to families and individuals who were resident outside the Chelmsford local authority area prior to an offer of housing being made *(a)* in 2006-07 and *(b)* so far in 2007-08; [145968]

(2) pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on council housing transfers: Chelmsford and *(b)* 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on housing, what the source was of the data collated for the answer provided in January that was not available for the answer provided in May; for what reason the data became unavailable between January and May 2007; and if she will make a statement. [145967]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 28 June 2007]:* The information regarding the proportion of the allocation to social housing in the Chelmsford local authority are given to families and individuals resident outside the Chelmsford local authority area is not collected centrally.

The answer collated on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on council housing transfers, was answered by Communities and Local Government and reflected the availability of information from centrally collected data.

The answer collated on 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on housing, was answered by the Government Office for the East of England, who contacted Chelmsford local authority directly for this information.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she has had with Ministers from the devolved administrations to discuss housing in the UK. [147375]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1425W.

Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private housing lets were made by each local authority in Hampshire in each year since 1997; and what assessment she has made of standard of repair of such properties. [148524]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not hold information about the number of private lettings made to social tenants by each local authority within Hampshire.

Housing: Low Incomes

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have become available on Wearside since 2002-03; and if she will make a statement. [148528]

Mr. Iain Wright: The numbers of affordable homes provided in each year since 2002-03 are tabulated as

follows. The question has been answered in terms of additional affordable homes either newly built or acquired on behalf of Sunderland city council. Affordable housing includes social rent and intermediate housing (e.g. low cost home ownership).

Affordable housing supply: Sunderland

Financial year	*Affordable homes provided*
2002-03	41
2003-04	8
2004-05	87
2005-06	50

Notes:
1. Affordable housing is the sum of both social rent and intermediate housing.
2. Includes new build and acquisitions.

Source:
Housing Corporation, local authorities

Parish Councils: Hextable

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she received Hextable's application for separate parish status; and when she expects to make a decision on the application. [148652]

John Healey *[holding answer 10 July 2007]*: The application by Sevenoaks district council to create a new parish of Hextable was received in this Department on 24 May 2006. A decision will be made once assessment of the representations received and issues involved in relation to this application have been fully considered.

Planning

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what processes are in place to enable *(a)* councillors and *(b)* the public to monitor the quality of decisions made on planning applications which are delegated to planning officers; and if she will make a statement. [148552]

Mr. Iain Wright: Decisions can only be delegated to officers by elected members, who must determine the terms on which a delegated agreement operates, including monitoring arrangements. Legislation requires that a list of powers exercisable by officers should be maintained and open to public inspection.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action is open to members of the public to challenge planning decisions made by planning officers under delegated powers, where the decision is in breach of the local plan. [148553]

Mr. Iain Wright: A planning decision made by a planning officer under delegated powers is deemed to be the decision of the local authority.

Third parties do not have a right of appeal in the way that applicants do because it is the responsibility of local planning authorities to act in the general public interest when determining planning applications. Local authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan for the area unless material considerations indicate otherwise, these can include views expressed by local residents and other parties. The applicant has a right of appeal against the refusal of a planning permission because this affects his/her property rights.

Third parties do have a right to challenge a planning decision by seeking a judicial review. However, a decision cannot be challenged merely because someone does not agree with the judgement of the local authority. Those challenging a decision have to be able to show that a serious mistake was made by the authority when reaching the decision or that the procedures were not carried out properly. If a mistake has been made the court has discretion not to quash the decision if it considers the interests of the person making the challenge have not been prejudiced.

Supporting People Programme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the Supporting People programme in each year since its inception. [147966]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1472W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Biometrics: Disclosure of Information

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition her Department uses of basic biodata; who collects this information; who this information is shared with; and in what circumstances the biodata is shared with embassy and other officials of the home country of individuals from countries other than the UK. [148773]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 July 2007]*: 'Biodata' is defined as the personal details contained in a passport or the equivalent personal details recorded on a visa or residence permit. This type of information is collected by both the Identity and Passport Service in relation to British citizens and the Border and Immigration Agency of the Home Office in relation to foreign nationals.

This information is processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection and Human Rights Acts and this includes when it is shared with third parties. The Home Office shares biodata records with other Government Departments, local authorities, the police and embassies where necessary for its functions, for example, for the purpose of safeguarding national security, the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This information may also be shared with the authorities of an individual's country of origin in order to secure documentation to facilitate their removal from the United Kingdom, where necessary.

Community Support Officers: Manpower

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish data on the recruitment and retention of police community support officers since the post's inception; and on numbers subsequently offered posts as police officers. [148350]

Mr. McNulty: There are no current plans to include information on the recruitment and retention of police community support officers in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales", where other such information on police service strength is published.

Data on the numbers of police community support officers joining and leaving the service have been collected since the inception of the post in 2002-03.

Data on the numbers of police community support officers subsequently offered posts as police officers are not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics series.

Crime: Intellectual Property

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1324-25W, on crime: intellectual property (IP), how many police forces have established strategies to deal with IP crime; and what steps she is taking to monitor progress in implementing these strategies. [147769]

Jacqui Smith: The establishment of strategies to tackle all types of crime is an operational matter, solely the responsibility of individual chief officers of police, on which information is not held centrally.

From 1 August, an officer from South Wales police will be joining the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) on a three year secondment to assist both the IPO and police authorities develop intelligence on IP crime in line with the national IP Crime Strategy.

EU Law: Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK will ratify the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. [148672]

Mr. Coaker: The former Home Secretary signed the Council of Europe Convention on 23 March on behalf of the Government and is fully committed to implement the obligations it imposes which will also provide a framework for the minimum rights and protection of all identified victims of trafficking.

It will inevitably take some time to move from signature to ratification of the Convention and the Government will not ratify the Convention until all changes to domestic legislation, processes and guidance are in place to ensure that we fully comply with its terms. The details on how implementation will be taken forward are currently being developed. We will work with colleagues across Government to implement the Convention and will look to draw on the expertise from non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in how we do so.

Identity Cards: Finance

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expected budget is for development of the identity cards and biometric passports scheme in 2007-08. [147755]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

Identity Cards: Homelessness

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision she plans to make for homeless people to register for a national identity card. [147758]

Jacqui Smith: Precise arrangements have yet to be made for identity card applications, including how it will be possible for homeless people to register for a national identity card. However, we intend to draw on the experience of other government departments such as the Department for Work and Pensions and the national health service that already provide services to homeless people.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1512W, on the National Identity Register, how she plans to ensure that registrants do not register fictional or inadequate addresses. [147772]

Jacqui Smith: It is intended that the National Identity Scheme will make use of the postcode address file as a method of address validation. However, it will not be the only source of validation and section 9 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 will enable checks to be made against records held on other databases to ensure that the address at which the individual is genuinely resident is recorded. Section 28 of the Act makes it a criminal offence to provide false information to the register, with a maximum term of imprisonment of two years available on conviction on indictment.

Northumbria Police: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many candidates of ethnic minority origin applied to the Northumbria police force in each year since 1997; and how many were successful. [147141]

Mr. McNulty: The available data on the number of applications to become a police officer and the number of successful entrants are available from 2003-04 onwards, and are given in the following table.

Ethnic minority[1] applicants and entrants to Northumbria police force from 2003-04 to 2005-06[2]

	Application forms received	*New entrants*
2003-04	8	2
2004-05	51	3
2005-06	40	5

[1] Ethnic minority applicants and entrants included those describing themselves as: mixed, black or black British, Asian or Asian British and Chinese or other. This does not include those who did not state their ethnicity.
[2] Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2003-04.

Police Stations: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to close police stations in Bournemouth. [148313]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2007]:* The management of the police estate is an operational matter for the chief constable.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force in England and Wales have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) racism, (ii) bullying and (iii) sexual harassment in the last 12 months. [148513]

Mr. McNulty: The provision of information regarding the numbers of police officers in each police force in England and Wales, who have been the subject of the disciplinary process for the types of misconduct listed, is the responsibility of the chief officer of each force.

Police: East Midlands

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to close the protective services gap among East Midlands police forces identified by Denis O'Connor in his 2005 report; and if she will make a statement. [148349]

Mr. McNulty: The police authorities and chief constables of the five East Midlands forces have made considerable efforts to address this issue. They fund jointly the East Midlands Collaboration Planning Team, which has undertaken a thorough examination of opportunities for reducing costs across all five police forces and investing in protective services, in particular through collaborative approaches. This work is continuing with the aim of having an action plan in place in October 2007. At the same time, the East Midlands forces have made advances in the delivery of policing services to tackle serious organised and cross-border crime through the establishment of the East Midlands Special Operations Unit. The Home Office has supported this development with start-up funding, and is also funding a Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit located in the East Midlands as part of the national structure being developed in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what national police responsibilities are tasked to Essex Constabulary; and if she will make a statement. [149358]

Mr. McNulty: The national strategic priorities for policing in England and Wales are set annually and are designed to allow individual police forces the necessary flexibility to fulfil their national responsibilities whilst giving due regard to local policing priorities. Essex Constabulary is not tasked with any specific national responsibilities outside of the national strategic priorities. Essex Police Authority, working closely with Essex Constabulary, produces an annual policing plan. The 2007-08 plan is available at:

www.essex.police.uk/cms/global/documents/07pplo.pdf

Police: Finance

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding has been allocated per head of population on police in 2007-08 for police authorities in *(a)* Derbyshire, *(b)* Leicestershire, *(c)* Lincolnshire, *(d)* Northamptonshire, *(e)* Nottinghamshire, *(f)* West Midlands and *(g)* Greater Manchester; [148618]

(2) what the average funding per head of population is on police in 2007-08 in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Midlands. [148619]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Police authority	*Total grants 2007-08[1] (£ million)*	*Resident population mid-2005[2] (million)*	*Funding per head of population 2007-08 (£)*
Derbyshire	123.64	0.98	126.00
Leicestershire	128.98	0.95	135.32
Lincolnshire	80.36	0.68	118.41
Northamptonshire	82.34	0.65	126.32
Nottinghamshire	154.95	1.04	148.79
West Midlands	519.51	2.59	200.48
Greater Manchester	505.94	2.55	198.99
Total East Midlands	570.27	4.31	132.31
Total England	8,884.81	50.42	176.22

[1] Total grants comprises: Home Office Police Grant, DCLG Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates; Special Formula grant, Specific Grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Neighbourhood Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit Fund, Community Support Officer Funding, Pension Deficit Grant and Dedicated Security Post funding and Capital provision (including the increased capital allocations announced on 24 May and 19 June 2007).
[2] Population Data sourced by the Office for National Statistics from the mid-2005 population estimates.

Police: Horses

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police authorities in England and Wales have a mounted police section. [146682]

Mr. McNulty: Information provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers, indicates that the following constabularies have mounted sections:

Avon and Somerset
City of London
Cleveland
Greater Manchester
Humberside
Lancashire
Merseyside
Metropolitan
Northumbria
Nottinghamshire
South Wales
South Yorkshire
Thames Valley
West Yorkshire

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 772-74W, if she will break down the figures for those leaving as a result of *(a)* resignation, *(b)* failed probation, *(c)* transfer to another force and *(d)* other reasons for each police force area for each year since 2002. [147890]

Mr. McNulty: The previously tabled question asked for the number of police recruits who left the force within two years of joining. No breakdown of leaving categories by length of service is collected centrally and so the requested information is not available.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to bring forward proposals to amend the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the associated guidance. [148692]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is working with stakeholders, including the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Policing Improvement Agency, to produce and to contribute to new guidance to public authorities on the operation and application of the 2000 Act. We will consider making any necessary amendments to the 2000 Act when a suitable legislative opportunity becomes available.

Road Safety

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on road safety, when the report will be published. [149166]

Mr. Coaker: The intention is to publish this report on the evaluation of support services for road traffic victims as a Research Summary in July 2007. The report will be based on an examination of three Home Office funded pilot schemes—Bedfordshire, Bradford and Calderdale and Merseyside.

The publication date reflects the work that has been involved in finalising the research report from the evaluation, and in quality assuring its contents.

Terrorism

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis was for her comment on 1 July that the recent terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow were not related to United Kingdom policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. [147939]

Mr. McNulty: The recent terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow are the subject of ongoing criminal investigation and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear he was not commenting directly on those investigations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Buildings

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which buildings within one mile of the House are occupied by his Department; and what the *(a)* address, *(b)* floor area and *(c)* function is of each building. [149225]

Gillian Merron: The buildings are as follows:

Building	*Function*	*Net internal area (m^2)*
70 Whitehall[1]	Office space and operational facilities	7,895
10-12 Downing street[1]	Office space, residential accommodation and state rooms	4,056
36 Whitehall	Office space	2,030
53 Parliament street	Office space	716
Admiralty House[1]	Residential accommodation, state rooms	1,367
22-26 Whitehall[1]	Office space	8,678
Admiralty Arch	Office space	7,383
35 Great Smith street	Office space and operational faculties	2,897
10 Great George street[1]	Office space	1,689
9 Whitehall	Office space	1,623
67 Tufton street	Office space and operational facilities	2,088
Dover House, Whitehall[1]	Office space	318
1 Horse Guards road[1]	Office space	488

[1] The Cabinet Office does not occupy the whole of these buildings

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in his Office have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) inappropriate use of the internet while at work and (ii) using work telephones to access premium rate telephone numbers in the last 12 months. [149186]

Gillian Merron: Internet and telephone misuse within the Cabinet Office is minimal. For cases which relate to five or less individuals, it is not standard Government practice to publish these records. This is in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants within his Department's areas of responsibilities in the last 12 months. [149039]

Gillian Merron: Details of how much the Cabinet Office spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the last 12 months is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Personnel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average fully loaded cost is of a full-time equivalent member of staff of his Department working in Whitehall. [146865]

Gillian Merron: Details of the average fully loaded cost of a full-time equivalent member of staff working in Whitehall, is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Racial Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints of racial abuse relating to staff for which his Department is responsible have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in the last 12 months. [149259]

Gillian Merron: During the last 12 months (for the period July 2006 to July 2007) the Cabinet Office has not received any official complaints of racial abuse.

Ministers Private Offices: Deputy Prime Minister

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to what use the office space previously used as the private office for the Deputy Prime Minister is being put. [149275]

Gillian Merron: The office space allocated to the Office of the former Deputy Prime Minister is being returned to the Cabinet Office.

Ministry of Defence: Location

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the contribution that the Ministry of Defence could make to post-Gershon work on the re-location of civil service jobs out of London and the South East via current initiatives, with particular reference to the Naval Base Review; and if he will make a statement. [147247]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to be in a position to begin making payments of the 2007 Single Farm Payment; [148726]

(2) what steps he will take to ensure that farmers are given their 2007 Single Farm Payment as soon as possible after the payment window opens. [148736]

Jonathan Shaw: The regulatory window for making payments under the 2007 single payment scheme (SPS) runs from 1 December 2007 to 30 June 2008. While the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will aim to start payments as early as possible within that window, the date will depend in practice on progress with the validation of claims.

We have set the RPA the target of paying 75 per cent. of the value of valid SPS 2007 claims by 31 March 2008 and 90 per cent. by 31 May 2008 based on the assumption that no partial payments will be made. While this represents a greater degree of challenge for the agency in the coming year it also reflects the fact that it is still in a recovery period. The Department will consider the issue of partial payments in autumn 2007 and the agency's target may be adjusted as necessary at that point.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects all single farm payments for *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 to be resolved. [148737]

Jonathan Shaw: We cannot give a firm date for when we will make the final payments under the 2005 and 2006 single payment scheme (SPS). The claimants who have yet to receive any payment are the more complex cases, such as those involving probate, which by their nature are more difficult to resolve. As the Secretary of State reported to the House on 2 July, there are also some 20,000 SPS 2005 claims where entitlement values have been identified for review and possible adjustment, upwards or downwards. This may identify a further payment to be made or an overpayment to be recovered. The RPA is now switching resources to deal with these cases.

Animal Welfare: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the

answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 61W, on animal welfare: transport, when four calves were humanely destroyed at Dover; and for what reason. [147732]

Jonathan Shaw: Since May 2006, animal health inspectors at Dover have found five calves in a collapsed state on vehicles intended for export. Notices were served requiring the immediate humane slaughter of all of these calves, although one died naturally. The notices did not require any further action as it was the opinion of the inspectors that the means and conditions of transport were not the cause of the calves condition. Because no post mortem was carried out, definitive prognosis is not available.

Animal Welfare: Trapping

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has held on the manufacturing, sale and use of animal snares; and if he will make a statement. [141779]

Joan Ruddock: The Government consider that where there is a need for wildlife management then the proper use of snares is one of a range of possible control methods. Used according to best practice, snares can be an effective and practical means of wildlife management (particularly for rabbits and foxes) and are needed where other forms of pest control are ineffective or impractical. In these circumstances snares restrain rather than kill and may prove to be more humane than other methods. The DEFRA snares action plan and the DEFRA code of good practice on the use of snares in fox and rabbit control in England can be found at:

http://www.Defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/snares/index.htm

Neither my predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) nor I, have held any recent discussions specifically on these issues. However, officials have occasional discussions with a wide range of stakeholders on the current policy on the use of snares.

Beef: Brazil

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tests are performed on beef imports from Brazil to detect residues of *(a)* pesticides, *(b)* veterinary medicines and *(c)* growth hormones. [147422]

Mr. Woolas: The Pesticide Residues Committee conducts annual programmes to monitor pesticide residues in food. The Committee last sampled beef imported from Brazil in 2004 and found no residues of substances sought.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) tests imported foods from third countries for residues of veterinary medicines and substances not permitted for use in the EU.

On the recommendation of the independent Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC), which advises the VMD and the Food Standards Agency on residues surveillance, the programme has focused on looking for banned substances in recent years. In 2003 and 2004, a total of 599 samples of imported beef were tested for residues of trenbolone and zeranol (hormonally active substances used for growth promotion), avermectins and ß-agonists. This included 202 samples from Brazil. No residues of these hormonal substances were detected in any of the samples.

In the light of these results, the VRC recommended that beef should be temporarily removed from the imports surveillance programme to focus more resources on areas where intelligence suggested that problems were emerging. The VRC recommended that beef should be restored to the imports surveillance programme in 2007, and 300 samples will be tested for zeranol, trenbolone, and avermectins.

All these test results have been published on the VMD and VRC websites.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to visit farms in *(a)* England and *(b)* Shropshire which have been affected by bovine tuberculosis. [148608]

Jonathan Shaw: My ministerial colleagues and I look forward to meeting farmers and their representatives in different parts of the country to discuss a range of important issues, including bovine tuberculosis, in our new roles.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis were recorded in Shrewsbury constituency in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005 and *(f)* 2006. [147671]

Jonathan Shaw: Bovine tuberculosis (TB) statistics are not collected on a constituency basis, but at county level. The total number of new herd TB incidents in Shropshire in the years requested are as follows:

	Total new herd TB incidents
2006[1]	149
2005[1]	124
2004	105
2003	86
2002[2]	69
2000	39

[1] Data are provisional, subject to change as more data becomes available.

[2] Data for 2002 are not comparable with other years because the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended in 2001 due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests, which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also, the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak.

Coastal Erosion: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* commissioned on the effects of coastal erosion in the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [148354]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for flood risk management in England, funds most of the Environment Agency's flood related work, and grant aids individual capital improvement projects undertaken by local authorities and internal drainage boards (IDBs). The programme to manage risk is driven by these operating authorities. DEFRA does not carry out works or studies, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake.

East Riding of Yorkshire council is the operating authority for this stretch of coast and has carried out annual monitoring of the Easington coast with DEFRA grant aid since 1997. Strategic studies for Bridlington and Withernsea were approved in 1999. In 2002, it carried out Holderness coastline beach management and monitoring which has continued until this year. An application for £111,000 of grant aid is being considered for DEFRA approval to continue funding the strategic monitoring of the coastline into 2007-08.

The East Riding of Yorkshire council is leading, with a contribution from the Environment Agency, the development of a shoreline management plan for Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point. An application for grant aid of £270,000 is also currently being considered by DEFRA.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* other external consultants and advisers in each year since 2000; and which of these consultants undertook work for the Department with a total contractual value in excess of £10 million over this period. [146337]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department came into being in July 2001. From information held centrally, the core-Department expenditure on consultancy and professional services over the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 (the first six months) is as per the following table:

£

Professional services	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
IT and telecommunication	45,431,803	52,805,769	99,254,525	130,937,698	64,966,899
Management and business consultancy	15,317,092	20,260,714	78,671 ,992	44,136,007	10,760,237
Programme and project management	20,579,670	23,118,978	24,323,086	18,192,186	5,293,234
Research and development	9,032,254	9,751,623	18,113,871	20,190,046	14,066,614
Specialist consultancy	39,942,837	39,828,357	36,312,208	36,646,432	9,009,558
Temporary staff	10,536,838	9,383,419	9,623,459	9,890,898	3,908,745
Grand total	140,840,492	155,148,860	266,299,141	259,993,267	108,005,287

Consultancy and professional services companies who undertook work in excess of £10 million over this period are:

Vendor name	*Total (£)*
IBM United Kingdom Ltd	184,000,947.13
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd	74,363,856.08
ADAS Consulting Ltd	63,234,238.93
Powergen Warm Front Ltd	52,171,198.28
Sungard Sherwood Systems Ltd	34,073,067.60
P A Consulting Group	25,395,448.74
Sema UK Ltd	19,399,018.41
Sherwood International Group Ltd	16,075,979.46
Adecco UK Ltd	16,053,596.31
Hedra Consortium	13,491,479.26
Walter Lilly and Co Ltd	12,487,874.35
Casella Stanger	11,128,685.35
Kelly Services UK Ltd	10,278,613.78
Tribal Yale	10,041,985.79

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1361W, on departments: manpower, what the estimated annual cost to the public purse is of the 136 staff on the Priority Movers List. [146887]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not possible to estimate an annual cost for staff on the Priority Movers List. It should be noted that many of the staff on the list are engaged on short term project work and other tasks which means that a significant proportion of the related cost contributes to delivery of departmental objectives.

DEFRA makes every effort to redeploy staff on the Priority Movers list. Those on the list are given priority access to all internal vacancies and are given first consideration for posts at the appropriate grade.

Departments: Public Transport

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of its staff using public transport to commute. [147325]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not keep records of the number of its staff using public transport to commute and is therefore unable to make an estimate on this.

Domestic Wastes: Exports

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* likely future change in the amount of exported domestic waste, broken down by category. [147205]

Joan Ruddock: The UK only exports waste that is suitable for recovery or recycling. Based on HM Revenue and Customs figures, it is estimated that in 2006, the UK exported some 8 million tonnes of metal scrap, 4 million tonnes of paper, 441,000 tonnes of plastic and 136,000 tonnes of glass cullet.

The Government have not made any estimate of the likely future growth in the amount of exported waste, but the Government sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has undertaken research to assess the international markets for key recyclable wastes: plastic, paper and glass, and these papers are available on WRAP's website.

http://www.wrap.org.uk/wrap_corporate/publications/index.html

Future trends on exports will depend largely on the success of the range of initiatives under way to increase provision of domestic recycling capacity as part of the implementation of Waste Strategy 2007.

Flood Control: Capital Investment

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how the increase in spending across Government of £200 million on flood-risk management and defences will be allocated *(a)* within his Department and *(b)* to other Government departments; [148085]

(2) what proportion of the additional £200 million for flood-risk management and defences will be allocated to the Great Wakering catchment area flood management project. [148086]

Mr. Woolas: No final decisions have been taken on the allocation between Departments of the £200 million increased spending in 2010-11. Funding for individual flood risk management projects will be decided through the prioritisation process which is being developed to reflect the new Outcome Measures.

Flood Control: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for future funding for the Environment Agency for flood defences; and if he will make a statement. [148609]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State confirmed on 2 July that spending on flood risk management and defences will rise from around £600 million in 2007-08 to £800 million by 2010-11. No final decisions have been taken on the allocation of the £200 million increased spending.

Flood Control: Telephone Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the savings which will be generated by and *(b)* the sum to be paid in redundancies resulting from the closure of the Worthing office of the Environment Agency. [149297]

Mr. Woolas: The scheme to move from three to two areas in the southern region has yet to be approved by the Environment Agency Board. The proposed scheme will improve operational delivery, technical resilience and save £2.75 million by April 2012.

Floods

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his oral statement of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 689-93, on floods (England), what additional funding he plans to make available to Wales for flood and coastal defence. [148198]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 July 2007]:* This is a devolved issue and is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the flood defence budget was directed to controlling surface water flooding in each of the last five years; and through which agencies and schemes it was allocated. [149291]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has principal responsibility for management of flood risk in England from designated main rivers and the sea and, since April 2004, has been responsible for the whole operational flood management budget provided by DEFRA. The prime focus of this work is on the management of floodwater in river systems and the avoidance of coastal inundation. Such works will often involve an element of provision for surface water drainage but this is not separately identified in funding allocations.

Floods: Grants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the criteria are for awarding monies under the small scale small business recovery scheme for flooded areas; to which areas the scheme will apply; and if he will make a statement. [148281]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The regional development agencies have responded rapidly to provide support and assistance to businesses affected by the recent flooding. Yorkshire Forward has set up a £2 million Small Business Recovery Scheme to assist businesses. To be eligible for funding to assist with immediate recovery needs, businesses must be in a recognised flooded area; be a business entity operating in the Yorkshire and Humber region and must have fewer than 250 employees. The East Midlands Development Agency has established a £500,000 Flood Recovery Fund to help support affected SMEs. To be

eligible for funding, businesses have to demonstrate impact of flooding on the income of the business; that it has taken all reasonable actions to mitigate this; that the business is temporarily trading at a loss or experiencing severe cash flow difficulties which could lead to failure of the business; and it can present evidence of past and future viability.

Full details of eligibility criteria are available at www.yorkshire-forward.com and www.eastmidlands business.co.uk.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of properties which are deemed uninsurable due to high risk of flooding. [149292]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Statement of Principles agreed between the Government and the Association of British Insurers (ABI), insurers will provide cover to existing policyholders if they estimate the risk of flooding as less than once in every 75 years or defences are planned to reduce the risk to this level within five years. If the risk is more than once in 75 years, and no defences are planned, insurers will examine the risk case-by-case and work with owners to see whether the property can be made insurable.

In their report to the Government last autumn, the ABI noted that their members continued to provide flood cover as standard to virtually all households. Following the recent flood events, ministerial colleagues and I met with the ABI on 10 July. The ABI stressed their commitment to make flood cover widely available as standard and we will hold a meeting to review the implementation of the Statement of Principles in the autumn.

Forests: Small Businesses

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice, training and support are available to local and small woodland businesses. [148104]

Joan Ruddock: The primary mechanism for advice and support is from the Forestry Commission whose role includes giving practical advice to woodland owners, and producing a range of woodland and forestry related publications. The Forestry Commission's research agency, Forest Research, provides specialist technical advice directly and through publications and seminars which are open to all in the forestry and woodland sector.

Individuals, commercial companies, professional bodies and other organisations also offer advice training and support. Nationally these include the Small Woods Association, the Royal Forestry Society and the Institute of Chartered Foresters. There are also a number of local and regional woodland initiatives and projects that provide assistance in various ways.

LANTRA the sector skills council for the environmental and land based sector includes forestry and arboriculture in their remit. It runs formal accredited training schemes, as do the National Proficiency Test Council.

There are proposals in the Regional Implementation Plans for the new Rural Development Programme for England, which if approved, will aid the provision of advice, training and support for local and small woodland businesses.

Leopards: Conservation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Iran ahead of the next Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference on preserving the North Persian leopard. [148499]

Joan Ruddock: The whole of the Leopard "(Panthera pardus)" taxon, which includes the north Persian leopard, is listed in CITES Appendix I. The 14th CITES Conference of Parties took place in The Hague between 2 and 15 June. No discussions were held with the Government of Iran on preserving the north Persian leopard either ahead of the CITES Conference, or since.

Lighting: Pollution

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to consult on draft guidance concerning light pollution. [148876]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is developing draft guidance on light pollution and planning, and is working closely with Communities and Local Government, which has policy responsibility for planning. The timing of a public consultation on the guidance is partly dependent on the on-going review of the national planning policy framework, announced in the Planning White Paper published in May this year.

Livestock: MRSA

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports he has received of MRSA infections in domesticated farm animals. [147996]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was first reported to have been isolated from animals in Europe in 1972 and over the subsequent years there have been a limited number of other reports from various parts of the world. Some early reports of MRSA in animals in the scientific literature did not use molecular or other appropriate techniques to confirm definitively the identity of the suspect MRSA organisms and these reports may not be comparable with current reports.

MRSA has been recovered from a number of different animal species and from a number of different parts of the world. The animal species involved include dogs (USA, Korea and the Netherlands), pigs (Netherlands, Denmark and Germany), horses (USA and Japan), dairy cows and chickens (Korea) and cats (Brazil). The scientific papers describing the detection

of MRSA in animals from these (and some other countries; the list is not exhaustive) are readily available in the scientific literature.

In the UK, since 1999, published reports have indicated that MRSA has been isolated from a small number of companion animals and from horses. There have been no reports of MRSA from food-producing animals in the UK. The current UK position relating to MRSA in animals has also been summarised on the DEFRA website and has been available for some time.

Packaging: Recycling

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether regulations are in place to oblige retailers *(a)* to take back and *(b)* to take back and recycle the packaging of products sold in their own stores; and if he will make a statement. [142067]

Joan Ruddock: No regulations are currently in place specifically obliging retailers to take back, and take back and recycle, packaging sold in their own stores. However, we have not ruled out regulating on this in the future, and if we wished to do so, powers are available in sections 93-95 of the Environment Act 1995.

The level of a business' obligation is determined, in part, by the amount of packaging they handle. Once they have calculated their obligation, the business has to ensure that the specified amount of packaging waste is recovered or recycled. This is an equivalent amount of waste, so does not have to be waste from the very same products handled by the business.

At present, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 encourage businesses to reduce the amount of packaging they use. In addition, the Government are encouraging supermarkets to take greater responsibility for the waste they place on the market and for producers to reduce their waste. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is currently working with retailers through the 'Courtauld Commitment', a voluntary agreement which aims to halt packaging growth by 2008 and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010. 13 major retailers, representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector, have already signed the agreement, as well as three major brands.

In addition, DEFRA, working with WRAP and the devolved administrations, has recently secured the agreement of UK retailers to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

Packaging: Wastes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps were taken to establish a protocol for reporting the progress made by signatories to the Courtauld Commitment on packaging waste when it was established in 2005. [148377]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Each of the signatories to the Courtauld Commitment is an obligated company for the purposes of the Packaging Regulations and declares their total packaging use each year to the relevant regulators. This has been the case since it was established in 2005.

The Courtauld Commitment objectives relate to primary packaging taken home by consumers. When my predecessor met the signatories last November, he asked them to agree a protocol with the Waste and Resources Action Programme for reporting progress in a consistent and transparent way. A draft protocol is currently being consulted on, with a view to it being agreed and implemented in this reporting year.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the annual total packaging use of each of the signatories to the Courtauld Commitment was in each year for which figures are available. [148410]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* Information on the annual total packaging use of each of the signatories is not routinely collected in the form requested.

As obligated companies for the purposes of the Packaging Regulations, the signatories to the Courtauld Commitment submit data to the Environment Agency. However, as some signatories are companies, and others are brands, it is not possible to extract the data in the form requested. Additionally the data are commercially sensitive.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 307W, on the Rural Payments Agency, when he will make the analysis available. [148277]

Jonathan Shaw: We are not at this stage in a position to advise when the detailed analysis of payments made under the single payment scheme will be made available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on a negotiated peace settlement of that country's civil war; and if he will make a statement; [149163]

(2) what financial and other assistance was provided to the Government of Colombia in each year since 2002 to tackle the illegal narcotics industry; and if he will make a statement; [149164]

(3) what discussions he and his officials have had with the Governments of *(a)* France, *(b)* Spain, *(c)* Switzerland and *(d)* other EU partners on a negotiated peace settlement to Colombia's civil war; [149210]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on the proposed humanitarian exchange of political prisoners in Colombia; [149211]

(5) what discussions he has had with the Government of Colombia on the protection of trade unionists in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [149212]

Dr. Howells: The longstanding conflict in Colombia, fuelled by the illegal drugs trade, has been deeply damaging. Significant progress has been made by President Uribe's Government, and the Government have congratulated him on this. But serious concerns remain, especially on human rights.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is yet to hold discussions with Colombian counterparts since his appointment. But officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London and Bogota hold regular discussions with Colombian Government officials, EU partners and civil society on the situation in Colombia.

Such talks have focused recently on the need for a substantive peace settlement with full participation by all actors in the conflict; the unacceptable on-going abuses of trade unionists and human rights defenders; proposed humanitarian exchanges of political prisoners; and the recent murders of 11 hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

My noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, held discussions with a range of senior Colombian and UK civil society figures on 26 June. Humanitarian exchanges of political prisoners and the situation for trade unionists in Colombia were prominent themes at this meeting. My noble Friend Lord Triesman issued a statement following the meeting, setting out the Government's views on these issues. The full text can be accessed on the FCO's website at:

http://www.fco. gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename= OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid= 1007029391638&a=KArticle&aid=1182951887630.

We have discussed with Colombian Government representatives in London and Bogota the issues raised at the meeting of 26 June. In doing so, we expressed our outrage at the killings of the 11 Colombian hostages held by the FARC, and extended our condolences to all those affected by this tragedy. The EU presidency also strongly condemned the killings and called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by PARC and other illegal groups.

The menace from drugs is real, both in Colombia and in the UK. Cooperation between the UK and Colombia has been very close and highly productive. We do not give details of our support because its disclosure would be to the detriment of the safety of the individuals, the prevention and detection of crime and international relations.

Iran: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations about the statements made by the President of Iran on (i) the right of the State of Israel to exist and (ii) denial of the holocaust; and if he will make a statement. [149356]

Dr. Howells: The Government have consistently condemned Iranian President Ahmadinejad's inflammatory comments about the state of Israel and his denial of the holocaust. We have made clear that these statements are wholly unacceptable, abhorrent and have no place in civilised political debate.

In December 2006 the Iranian Government hosted a conference, in the guise of an academic exercise, which attempted to cast doubt on whether the holocaust took place. President Ahmadinejad's comments at the event demonstrated that the intention was to undermine Israel's right to exist. My right hon. Friend the former Prime Minister publicly condemned the conference in the strongest terms and I summoned the Iranian ambassador to express the UK's outrage at the event. On 26 January the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning without reservation any denial of the holocaust. The UK strongly supported this resolution. Iran was the only country that chose to disassociate itself from the consensus shared by all other UN members on this issue.

President Ahmadinejad's approach towards Israel serves to undermine international confidence that Iran is willing to comply with its obligations and act as a respectable member of the international community. We continue to take such comments extremely seriously.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what commitments have been made by Iran to co-operate with the International Atomic Energy Agency in resolving outstanding issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [147481]

David Miliband: Iran has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has signed, but not ratified, an Additional Protocol to this agreement.

As the IAEA has made clear over a series of reports to its Board of Governors and to the UN Security Council,

> "unless Iran addresses the long outstanding verification issues, and implements the Additional Protocol and the required transparency measures, the Agency will not be able to fully reconstruct the history of Iran's nuclear programme and provide assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran or about the exclusively peaceful nature of that programme".

The IAEA has consistently requested additional transparency measures from Iran which it regards as essential to resolving these outstanding concerns.

While we welcome Iran's latest declaration of willingness to co-operate with the IAEA to resolve the outstanding issues, it is essential that Iran provides full co- operation and transparency towards the IAEA, as it has so far failed to do. Resolution of the outstanding issues is something Iran should take forward as a matter of urgency as a member of the IAEA. However, it is not a substitute for suspension of Iran's proliferation sensitive nuclear activities, as requested by the IAEA Board of Governors as a confidence-building measure and made mandatory by the UN Security Council.

Pakistan

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM High Commission, Islamabad, has received the test results in the case of the family of Mr. S J of Aylesbury (reference GV 100/122773/JG/NP, cellmark reference HO71607); and when the High Commission expects to inform the applicants and sponsor of the outcome of the case. [149365]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Islamabad has received the DNA test results for the entry clearance applications submitted by the family of Mr. S J of Aylesbury. However, the applications were referred to the Home Office on 10 July for further information. The family members will be requested to attend an interview at our Visa Section in Islamabad as soon as this information has been received.

Palestinians: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Palestinian authorities on incursions by Palestinian terrorists into Israel; what response has been received; and if he will make a statement. [149354]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by the security situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, especially the recent attacks on Israel by Palestinian militant groups. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the security situation with Palestinian President Abbas on 29 June. Staff from our consulate-general in Jerusalem also regularly raise security concerns with the Palestinian Authority (PA), most recently with the Fayyad-led emergency government.

We will do all we can to assist the PA in taking forward security sector reform. As agreed by EU Foreign Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June, the EU will now develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance including: direct financial support to the government; support to the Palestinian civilian police; the resumption of the EU Border Assistance Mission; and intensive efforts to build the institutions of the future Palestinian state.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the (i) strength, (ii) leadership and (iii) political objectives of the Ugandan People's Redemption Army and *(b)* the length of time it has been active; whether it has attacked property in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [148926]

Meg Munn: There are contradictory reports about the People's Redemption Army (PRA) and its strength, leadership, activities and political objectives. We have seen no evidence that the PRA represents any significant threat to Uganda's stability.

We continue to press the Government of Uganda that there should be a free, fair and transparent legal process for those alleged to be members of the PRA currently in custody and/or on trial and that this should be completed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the transition to multi-party democracy in Uganda; whether the ideological training institute at Kyankwanzi is still in use; and if he will make a statement. [148927]

Meg Munn: In February 2006 Uganda held its first multi-party elections in 25 years. The reintroduction of a multi-party system was an important achievement. However there is still much to be done, particularly with regard to respect for the independence of the judiciary and political space for the opposition.

It is essential, therefore, that the government and the opposition parties continue to work together to embed the evolving multiparty democracy and ensure transparency. The UK, along with other international partners, has a regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy.

The Kyankwanzi National Leadership Institute remains in use and is responsible for preparing senior government officials (including members of the Police, Prison Service and Resident District Commissioners).

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the availability of alcohol misuse services. [147981]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts (PCTs) have the lead responsibility to assess the health care needs of their local populations and, in consultation with social care organisations and others, to understand the impact that harmful drinking is having on the health of the local population and to provide adequate treatment provision to tackle this.

In support of this, the Government's renewed alcohol strategy, 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The Next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', sets out a new approach to achieve significant and measurable reductions over a sustained period in the harms caused by alcohol.

In addition, from 2007-8, an additional £15 million has been distributed to PCTs to support development and delivery of alcohol intervention via the PCT general allocation budget. This money has been distributed using the normal weighted capitation formula so the actual amount spent local will vary from area to area.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has *(a)* to assist and *(b)* otherwise to contact the management of Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals to discuss infection control; and if he will make a statement; [149286]

(2) what action he plans to take in response to the improvement notice issued by the Healthcare Commission to Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust on dealing with infection control at those hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [149288]

Ann Keen: The trust and strategic health authority are working together to address the issues in the improvement notice and the Department will assist if appropriate but these issues need to be resolved locally.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take following the Healthcare Commission findings at Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust on factually incorrect management reporting of infection control results; and if he will make a statement. [149287]

Ann Keen: The current case appears to have identified differences in interpreting compliance with the code of practice. With the Healthcare Commission, we will be considering if trusts need additional guidance on assessing compliance.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients at *(a)* Barnet and *(b)* Chase Farm hospitals contracted (i) *Clostridium difficile* and (ii) MRSA in (A) each of the last three years and (B) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [149298]

Ann Keen: The data are not available in the format requested. The best available information for methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is from the mandatory MRSA blood stream infections surveillance that began in April 2001 and covers acute national health service trusts in England rather than individual hospitals. Mandatory surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* commenced in January 2004.

Data for both MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* for 2007 are not yet available

Number of reported cases of Clostridium difficile

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	*Number*
January-December 2004	514
January-December 2005	692
January-December 2006	723

Number of reported MRSA blood stream infections (bacteraemia)

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	*Number*
April 2003-March 2004	94
April 2004-March 2005	102
April 2005-March 2006	78
April 2006-December 2006	46

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the Healthcare Commission's *(a)* improvement notice and *(b)* report relating to infection control at Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals. [149299]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Blood: Contamination

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what approaches he has received from Lord Archer of Sandwell requesting papers and information to help his inquiry into the contamination of blood products; what information has been supplied; what information is outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [148620]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials met with members of the inquiry team on 25 April 2007 to discuss what information the Department may be able to provide to the inquiry. Following that meeting the Department sent the inquiry team a chronology on the screening of donors for evidence of transfusion transmissible infections.

We have also made available a recently completed document on the 'Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 (Non A Non B Hepatitis)', and the supporting references. These documents are available in the Library.

Lord Archer has been advised that the Department will release all papers identified in the Review, in line with the Freedom of Information Act. The papers will be released to Lord Archer's inquiry as quickly as possible, in monthly batches. The first set of papers were sent to the inquiry team on 15 June.

Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to his answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 990W, on bone diseases: medical treatments, when he expects a final approval determination to be published following the delay in publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's final guidance for anti-tumour necrosis factor treatment for ankylosing spondylitis; [148497]

(2) whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's assessment of, and guidance on, anti-tumour necrosis factor treatments for ankylosing spondylitis will take into account the Department's policy of treating patients outside hospital whenever possible. [148498]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) anticipates publishing final guidance to the national health service on adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis in October 2007.

In reaching a view on the clinical and cost effectiveness of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis, NICE's Appraisal Committee will consider all relevant information.

Further information is available on NICE's website at:

guidance.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=98339

Care Homes: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many beds funded by his Department were provided in social services care homes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Shropshire in (i) 1997, (ii) 2000, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2007; [147705]

(2)how much his Department spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* per bed provided on social care home facilities in Shropshire in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and what spending has been forecast for 2007-08. [147707]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not directly fund places in care homes, with the exception of people receiving continuing care, whose care is funded by the national health service. Information on the numbers of people receiving NHS funded continuing care and nursing care in England is only available from 2003 onwards. This is shown in the following tables. Separate figures for Shropshire are not available.

NHS-funded nursing care in England at 31 March

	Number
2003	58,751
2004	119,081
2005	125,573
2006	117,939
2007	123,452

Continuing care in England at 31 March

	Number
2003	17,019
2004	19,723
2005	20,842
2006	25,008
2007	30,975

Care may be funded in a variety of ways. Depending on their financial circumstances, residents may pay for their own care, or be partly or wholly supported by local council social services, or organisations such as charities or previous employers. Local council social services pay for care using funding allocations they receive from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The following tables show the information for the number of supported residents aged 18 and over funded wholly or in part by local council social services and the gross expenditure for 1997, 2000, and 2005 in England and Shropshire.

Number of adults supported in residential care in England and Shropshire in 1997, 2000, and 2005

Rounded numbers

	1997	2000	2005[2]
England	241,900	267,500	266,200
Shropshire[1]	2,300	2,500	2,300
Of which:			
Shropshire (remaining)	—	1,600	1,600
Telford and the Wrekin	—	900	700

[1] From 2000 onwards, Shropshire council was split into Shropshire and Telford and the Wrekin.
Figures have been provided on a consistent basis for comparison.
[2] The 2005 information includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights and Boyd loophole residents.

Gross current expenditure spend on residential care for adults in England and Shropshire in 1997-98, 2000-01 and 2005-06

£ thousands

	1997-98	2000-01	2005-06
England	4,086,300	5,124,500	7,042,900
Shropshire[1]	34,700	41,400	52,800
Of which:			
Shropshire (remaining)	—	27,000	36,700
Telford and the Wrekin	—	14,400	16,200

[1] From 2000 onwards, Shropshire council was split into Shropshire and Telford and the Wrekin.
Figures have been provided on a consistent basis for comparison.

The cost per person per week for adults staying in residential care during 2005-06 in Shropshire was £424.

Information for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is not yet available and forecasts are not made.

Information about the numbers of children in care homes is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

Departments: European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in his Department are *(a)* involved in assisting European Council negotiations, *(b)* involved in assisting and advising the European Commission, *(c)* seconded to the European Commission, *(d)* involved in monitoring EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives, *(e)* involved in enforcing compliance with EU decisions, communications, regulations and directives and *(f)* involved in other work related to the European Council, Commission or Court of Justice. [146095]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials throughout the Department are involved in a full range of European Union business. Those working specifically on EU business in the international division total seven. A breakdown of the figures requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Missing People

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers or officials from his Department attended the meeting of the National Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group on 27 June; what steps his Department is taking following the meeting; whether he expects to attend the next meeting; and if he will make a statement. [148111]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Department officials attended the meeting of the National Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group (NMPSOG) on 27 June. There were no resulting action points for the Department and officials expect to attend the next meeting.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, on Departments: public bodies, what the *(a)* whole-time equivalent numbers and *(b)* budget were for NHS Supply Chain in each year since its inception. [148835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information relating to NHS Supply Chain was not provided separately in the answer of 19 June 2007 as it is not an arm's length body in its own right. NHS Supply Chain was created on 1 October 2006 and is a contract managed by NHS Business Services Authority.

As of end June 2007, NHS Supply Chain employed 1,592 whole-time equivalent members of staff.

The budget is commercially sensitive information and is not for public disclosure, as agreed by the contract established with the Department.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, on Departments: public bodies, whether the figures included consultants; and how many consultants were employed by each arm's length body in each year. [148836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The answer of 19 June 2007 related to staff employed by the Department's arm's length bodies.

Details relating to consultants contracted by the Department's arm's length bodies are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-34W, on Departments: public bodies, whether NHS Direct, for the purposes of the answer, has been subsumed into Connecting for Health. [148837]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-34W, provided the (a) budget and (b) staffing numbers for the Department's arm's length bodies for each year they were available. The information for NHS Direct was provided for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. NHS Direct became an NHS Trust on 1 April 2007 and ceased to be an arm's length body so no information was provided for 2007-08.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-4W, on Departments: public bodies, who administered the budget originally allocated to the NHS Modernisation Agency after 2004-05; and what that budget was in each year since 2005-06. [148838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For 2005-06, £135.692 million was distributed by the Department to the strategic health authorities to distribute across the national health service.

In 2006-07, £115.192 million and in 2007-08 £87.336 million were distributed to the NHS by the department as part of the NHS funding bundle.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement also received funding from the money that had previously been allocated to the NHS Modernisation Agency.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the final submission setting out his Department's financial needs for the period covered by the 2002 spending review that his Department made to HM Treasury as part of the spending review process before a final settlement was agreed. [146529]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the Government's view that publishing spending review papers would be prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs.

Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* nursery nurses, *(c)* support workers and *(d)* midwives there were in Hertfordshire in each year since 2001. [148703]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the number of nursing, midwifery and health visiting and support staff in Hertfordshire as at 30 September for each year specified.

Headcount

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*[1]2004*	*2005*	*[2]2006*
Total nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff and support staff	6,077	5,911	6,344	7,656	6,716	6,105
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	4,668	4,478	4,670	5,503	5,020	4,729
Nurse Consultant	0	5	9	1	2	2
Modern Matron	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	37	39
Manager	33	27	49	59	53	46
Registered nurse—Children	43	41	41	47	51	40
Registered midwife	380	350	324	362	371	381
Health visitor	228	259	249	252	284	239
District nurse 1st level	250	313	264	278	105	80
District nurse 2nd level	64	10	12	31	9	1
Qualified School Nurse	0	0	15	0	4	4
Other 1st level	3,285	3,292	3,583	4,355	3,990	3,863
Other 2nd level	385	144	124	118	114	34
Unspecified qualified nursing	0	37	0	0	0	0
Support to clinical staff	1,409	1,433	1,674	2,153	1,696	1,376

	2001	2002	2003	[1]2004	2005	[2]2006
						Headcount
Nursery nurse	22	35	35	48	75	45
Nursing assistant/auxiliary	1,387	1,363	1,639	2,105	1,621	1,331
Unqualified nurses with unknown classification	0	35	0	0	0	0

n/a = not applicable

[1] In 2004 East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust reported a large increase in the use of bank staff.

[2] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures. This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Note:

Hertfordshire has been defined as consisting of East and North Hertfordshire PCT, West Hertfordshire PCT, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust and West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust and based on boundaries at 1 October 2006.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care 2006 non-medical workforce census.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are waiting for a hearing aid; and what the average waiting time is for such provision. [148044]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect data on waiting times for a hearing aid. However, since January 2006, the Department has been collecting data on the waiting times for audiology assessment. The latest figures, for April 2007, indicate that there are currently 7,328 people waiting over 13 weeks for an audiology assessment in the North East Strategic Health Authority.

Home Care Services: Elderly

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to review the current arrangements for home care for pensioners. [148715]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No. The provision of social care is based on the National Assistance Act 1948. Sections 21 and 29 of the Act relate to the duties and powers of local authorities to provide social care services. Following the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970, local council social services departments were set up to provide services to a wide range of people, including children in need, people with mental health problems and learning difficulties and older people.

Local authorities are responsible for assessing the care needs of their populations and providing or arranging care services to meet those needs, including home care for pensioners.

Homeopathy: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients who live in the areas covered by West Kent Primary Care Trust will continue to be able to receive homeopathy from the Tunbridge Wells NHS Homeopathic Hospital. [147817]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for the local national health service, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Local solutions will meet the needs of local patients and communities. Consultation about the commissioning of homeopathy services is therefore a matter for West Kent Primary Care Trust.

Hospitals: Parking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in the Greater Manchester area have acted on his Department's recommendations to provide free or reduced price parking for patients with long-term illnesses and requiring regular treatment. [147256]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under Income Generation rules it is for each individual national health service body to manage any car parking scheme on its premises, including what charges to impose and what concessions to offer, taking into consideration all of the relevant local factors. The document 'Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation' is intended to provide advice and support in carrying out that function. While I would expect NHS bodies to consider and take account of the recommendations set out in the document, they are not obliged to adhere to them unconditionally.

The Estates Related Information Collection database monitors some transport and car parking related activities. However, it does not monitor implementation of any of the recommendations in this best practice document.

Human Embryo Experiments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received objecting to the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill; and what objections have been made in those representations. [148636]

Dawn Primarolo: On 17 May 2007, the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill was published in draft form and is now undergoing scrutiny by a Joint House of Commons and House of Lords Committee, concluding on 25 July. The Committee has taken a range of evidence.

Following publication of the draft Bill, a number of representations have been made to the Department. Where objections have been raised, they have primarily concerned the proposal to form the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos, the proposal to

allow the creation of inter-species embryos for research, and the proposal to remove the reference to a child's need for a father when considering the welfare of the child.

Objections to these proposals have been based on a variety of moral, religious, sociological and practical grounds.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to allocate funds to the development of photodynamic therapy. [148449]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1450-51W.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent in England on providing *(a)* additional secure psychiatric beds, *(b)* medical services for prisoners, *(c)* drug and alcohol treatment of prisoners and *(d)* drug and alcohol treatment for other convicted persons in each of the last six years; and what sums are budgeted for the next five years; [148383]

(2) what funding he provided for prison psychiatric care in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the prison health care budget each figure represented. [148398]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on expenditure on additional psychiatric beds is not collected centrally. Funding is allocated on the basis of individual need, as determined by local commissioners.

Expenditure on medical services for prisoners in the last six years, which includes psychiatric services, is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on prison health care in England 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Amount (£)
2002-03	117,615,000
2003-04	139,705,000
2004-05	158,002,000
2005-06	177,511,000
2006-07	189,319,000

Note:
The figures quoted include amount spend on mental health in-reach services in both publicly and privately managed prisons.
Source:
Department of Health

The 2007-08 allocation currently stands at £198,999,000.

The figure for 2006-07 also includes an amount to cover the cost of implementing Agenda for Change, backdated to October 2004, for prison health care staff who have transferred to the national health service.

Drug treatment funding allocated to prisons globally over the past six years is shown in the following table.

Table 2: drug treatment funding allocated to prisons 2001-02 to 2006-07

£ million

Intervention	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing)	7.30	7.30	11.30	11.30	11.30	23.3
Counselling, assessment, referral, advice and through care services (CARATs)	12.91	14.30	17.40	23.20	26.70	31.7
Drug rehabilitation programmes	7.09	7.10	9.00	13.90	19.40	19.40
Juvenile substance misuse service (JSMS)	—	—	—	2.30	2.9	2.9
Total	27.30	28.70	37.70	50.70	60.30	77.3

Source:
Home Office

There is currently no central funding for implementing the Alcohol Strategy for Prisoners (introduced December 2004). A number of initiatives are under way locally but such spend is not recorded centrally.

For drug and alcohol treatment for other convicted persons, the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) and, since April 2005, the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) of the community order, which has gradually replaced it, are the only community sentences which require the offender to attend drug treatment. Funding for DTTOs and DRRs over the last six years is shown in the following table.

Funding for DTTOs and the DRRs 2001-02 to 2005-06

£ million

	Amount paid to pooled treatment budget to fund DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England	*Allocation to probation areas to fund DTTO/DRR supervision and enforcement costs in England and full DTTO/DRR costs in Wales*
2001-02	14.8	21.2
2002-03	29	16
2003-04	29.7	24
2004-05	42	34
2005-06	42	39
2006-07	42	39

Source:
Home Office

Additionally, £3 million was made available in 2005-06 to the Prospects programme, a pilot which provides offenders with a history of drug misuse with seamless support from prison to the community in a residential setting.

DTTO and DRR allocations are projected to remain the same in 2006-07. The 2006-07 allocation for Prospects was £3.8 million, which has risen to £4.35 million for 2007-08.

There is no dedicated funding provided by Government to support the provision of alcohol treatment to offenders under probation supervision. Instead, each probation area determines the amount of its annual probation funding allocation to spend on alcohol treatment. Information about alcohol treatment spend by probation area is not centrally available.

Funding plans for any of these programmes and services for the next five years have not yet been finalised, although they are all ongoing.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were reported as requiring psychiatric care in each of the last five years. [148399]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

A survey, "Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, 1998)" showed that 90 per cent. of prisoners have at least one significant mental health problem, including personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence. A copy is available in the Library.

People who are mentally too ill to remain in prison should be transferred to hospital. We have introduced tighter monitoring to identify prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period for transfer to hospital. A protocol was issued to prisons and primary care trusts in October 2005 setting out what must be done when a prisoner has been waiting for a hospital place for more than three months following acceptance by the national health service.

These measures have helped bring about positive results. In 2006, 962 prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners were transferred to hospital for psychiatric care in each of the last five years; and what the average waiting time for the transfer was over that period. [148400]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested on the numbers of prisons transferred is shown in the table.

Total number of transfers under Sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 2001-06

	Total
2001	670
2002	722
2003	785
2004	892
2005	896
2006	962

Source:
Mental Health Unit, Home Office

Information on the average length of time prisoners wait for these transfers is not collected centrally. However, there has been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer in the quarter ending March 2007, 40 prisoners were waiting, down from 51 in the same quarter in 2005.

Mentally Ill: Cannabis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 583W, on mentally ill: cannabis, how many hospital admissions on mental health grounds resulting from the use of cannabis there were in each year since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority area. [147498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2187W.

Mentally Ill: HM Prison Armley

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prisoners currently in HM Prison Armley has been diagnosed as having *(a)* mental health, *(b)* alcohol-related and *(c)* drug-related problems; and if he will make a statement. [148647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. A survey, "Psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales (Office for National Statistics, 1998)" showed that 90 per cent. of prisoners have at least one significant mental health problem, including personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence. A copy is available in the Library.

Mental health services for prisoners have been a key part of the government's recent reforms of health services for prisoners. The Department is now investing £20 million a year in national health service mental health in-reach services for prisoners. These are community mental health teams working within prisons and are now available in 102 prisons, with some 360 extra staff employed. Every prison in England and Wales has access to these services. Information on how many prisoners receive these services is not collected centrally.

Methylamphetamine

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps he has taken to prevent the sale of over-the-counter medicines for the manufacture of methylamphetamine; and what assessment he has made of whether the classification of medicines containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine as pharmacy available plays a role in the illegal manufacture of methylamphetamine; [148031]

(2) what assessment he has made of the prevalence of the use of over-the-counter medicines to manufacture methylamphetamine. [148033]

Dawn Primarolo: The manufacture of methylamphetamine in the United Kingdom is believed to be at a low level currently, but is thought to be increasing. The reclassification of methylamphetamine to Class A under the Misuse of Drugs Act on 18 January 2007 is now enabling the collection and analysis of more specific data on methylamphetamine use in the UK. However no formal assessment has yet been made of the prevalence of the use of over the counter medicines to manufacture methylamphetamine.

On 7 March 2007, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency started a public consultation exercise on proposals to restrict the availability of medicines containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine by a change to legal status from pharmacy to prescription only, together with a restriction in pack size. This followed advice from the Commission on Human Medicines that non-statutory measures, such as rigorous supervision of pharmacy sales of single packs, were not sufficient alone to protect public health. The consultation exercise ended on 29 June 2007 and the results are currently being evaluated. Part of that evaluation includes the effect of action to introduce restrictions on supply including reclassification, taken in other countries, on the role of these medicines in the manufacture of methylamphetamine.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* total NHS expenditure on medicines and *(b)* NHS spending per head on medicines has been in each year since 1997-98 (i) for England and (ii) broken down by strategic health authority area. [149489]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables give total national health service expenditure on medicines since 1997-98 and is broken down by *(a)* primary care and *(b)* the hospital and community health service (HCHS).

Primary care medicines expenditure is the total actual cost of drugs and appliances prescribed by general practitioners/nurses within England plus any central budget expenditure or locally authorised payments.

HCHS expenditure on drugs includes medical gases.

The Department does not publish the drugs bill on a per capita basis. The per capita figures have been derived from Office of National Statistics mid-year total population estimates for England, and do not take into account age related demand for drugs.

A times-series breakdown by strategic health authority (SHA) area is not available as this data are not collated by SHA centrally.

Cash terms

	Total outturn(£ million)	*Per capita(£)*	*Of which: primary(£ million)*	*Per capita (£)*	*Of which: HCHS(£ million)*	*Per capita(£)*
1997-98	5,173	106.3	4,085	83.9	1,088	22.4
1998-99	5,550	113.7	4,339	88.9	1,211	24.8
1999-2000	6,202	126.5	4,833	98.6	1,369	27.9

Resource terms (from 2000-01)

£

	Total outturn(£ million)	*Per capita(£)*	*Of which: primary(£ million)*	*Per capita(£)*	*Of which: HCHS(£ million)*	*Per capita(£)*
2000-01	6,688	135.8	5,158	104.8	1,530	31.1
2001-02	7,447	150.6	5,707	115.4	1,740	35.2
2002-03	8,355	168.3	6,342	127.7	2,013	40.5
2003-04	9,271	186.0	6,960	139.6	2,311	46.4
2004-05	9,965	198.9	7,370	147.1	2,595	51.8
2005-06	9,979	197.9	7,215	143.1	2,764	54.8

Notes:
1. Figures are net which include pharmaceutical price regulation scheme (PPRS) receipt savings.
2. The total drugs spend include drugs expenditure in primary care and the HCHS. The primary care expenditure reflects amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors and amounts authorised for dispending doctors and personal administration in England. HCHS expenditure includes drugs and medical gases.
3. From 2000-01 figures are in resource terms, prior to this figures are in cash terms. Cash figures relate to February to January prescribing due to delay in prescription processing and payment calculations. Resource figures represent the actual cost between April to March.

Sources:
Prescription pricing division of the NHS Business Services Authority, England and Department of Health Finance Division.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records are being held by his Department on the discussions with HM Treasury on changes to the resource accounting and budgeting system announced in March 2007. [147123]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department holds a range of records on the discussions between the Department and HM Treasury on the changes to the resource accounting and budgeting rules for national health service trusts announced on 28 March 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changes to the resource accounting and budgeting system. [147204]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State has regular meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at which a range of issues are discussed.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the detailed report relating to the final sign-off on the financial plans of NHS organisations in 2007-08 referred to on page 28 of his Department's NHS financial performance quarter four, published on 6 June 2007; if he will publish the detailed report; and if he make a statement. [147534]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently completing its risk assessment of the 2007-08 financial plans submitted by all national health service organisations. Information relating to these plans will be published in due course.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital budget was of each *(a)* NHS trust and *(b)* primary care trust in 2006-07; and what the actual capital expenditure was in 2006-07 of each. [147576]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested, based on 2006-07 unaudited draft national health service accounts, has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely level of top-slicing in 2007-08 of primary care trust revenue allocations in each strategic health authority area. [147577]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently completing its risk assessment of the 2007-08 financial plans submitted by all national health service organisations. Information relating to these plans will be published in due course.

We made clear in the 2007-08 NHS operating framework that strategic health authorities (SHAs) should not generally require the level of contribution to their reserves from primary care trust (PCT) allocations as was the case in 2006-07, because of the return of the NHS to overall financial balance by the end of the last financial year.

Where continuing contributions from PCT allocations are required by SHAs in 2007-08, they must be subject to transparent rules clearly covering the purpose of the reserves and the timescale over which each organisation can expect to recover its contribution. SHAs have been asked to ensure that financial plans for 2007-08 for individual organisations have been prepared on this basis.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 2006-07 in-year financial position was of each *(a)* strategic health authority, *(b)* NHS trust and *(c)* primary care trust. [147579]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table providing the information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* full-time equivalent (i) doctors and (ii) nurses were working in the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [147448]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the table.

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All doctors (excluding retainers)											
Headcount	86,584	89,619	91,837	93,941	96,319	99,169	103,350	108,993	117,036	122,345	125,612
Full-time equivalent (FTE)	81,783	84,758	86,594	88,371	90,248	92,495	96,999	102,037	109,224	114,251	119,096
General practitioners (GPs, excluding retainers)[1, 2]											
Headcount	29,116	29,389	29,697	29,987	30,252	30,685	31,182	32,593	34,085	35,302	35,369
FTE	27,550	27,660	27,848	28,033	28,154	28,439	28,740	29,777	30,762	31,683	33,121
HCHS medical and dental staff (excluding locums)											
Headcount	64,213	66,836	68,458	70,000	71,688	73,846	77,031	80,851	86,996	90,630	93,320
FTE	54,233	57,099	58,746	60,338	62,094	64,055	68,260	72,260	78,462	82,568	85,975
Of which:											
Consultants (including directors of public health)											
Headcount	20,402	21,474	22,324	23,321	24,401	25,782	27,070	28,750	30,650	31,993	32,874
FTE	18,603	19,661	20,432	21,410	22,186	23,064	24,756	26,341	28,141	29,613	30,619
Total qualified nursing staff[3, 4]											
Headcount	319,151	318,856	323,457	329,637	335,952	350,381	367,520	386,359	397,515	404,161	398,335
FTE	257,891	256,093	257,597	261,340	266,987	277,334	291,285	304,892	315,440	321,537	322,062
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff											
Headcount	301,253	300,467	304,563	310,142	316,752	330,535	346,537	364,692	375,371	381,257	374,538
FTE	248,070	246,011	247,238	250,651	256,276	266,171	279,287	291,925	301,877	307,744	307,447

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
GP practice nurses[1, 3, 4]											
Headcount	17,898	18,389	18,894	19,495	19,200	19,846	20,983	21,667	22,144	22,904	23,797
FTE	9,821	10,082	10,359	10,689	10,711	11,163	11,998	12,967	13,563	13,793	14,616

[1] GP data as at 1 October 1995-99 and 30 September 2000-06.
[2] GP FTE data for 1996 to 2005 has been estimated using the results from the 1992-93 GMP Workload Survey. For 2006, FTE has been collected and therefore may not be fully comparable with previous years.
[3] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife.
[4] Headcount practice nurse figures are estimated for 1998 and 1999 based on the 1997 FTE to headcount ratio.
Notes:
1. All doctors (excluding GP retainers) also excludes hospital practitioners and clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part-time in hospitals.
2. More accurate validation this year means that in 2006, 9,858 duplicate records were identified and removed from the non-medical census. The impact of duplicates on FTE has been minimal with the removal of 507.

Nutrition: Fruit and Vegetables

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research has been conducted into the health effects of drinking fruit juice *(a)* made from concentrate and *(b)* not made from concentrate; and if he will make a statement; [149214]

(2) what research has been conducted into the health effects of eating *(a)* pre-packaged, pre-prepared fruit and *(b)* fresh fruit; and if he will make a statement; [149215]

(3) what research has been conducted into the health effects of eating *(a)* pre-packaged, pre-prepared salads and *(b)* freshly made salads; and if he will make a statement. [149216]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's advice to increase fruit and vegetable consumption to five portions a day is based on a range of evidence that suggests high intakes may be beneficial in reducing the risk of chronic disease, such as heart disease.

There is no evidence to suggest that there is a difference in the health benefits of fruit, fruit juice and salads prepared in the ways identified. All these sources of fruit and vegetables count towards achieving the 5 a day recommendation, although fruit juice counts as a maximum of one portion a day, however much you consume.

Offenders: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many offenders *(a)* in prisons and *(b)* in the community were receiving treatment for drug or alcohol problems in each of the last five years; [148395]

(2) how many prisoners are waiting to attend *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug management courses; and what the average waiting time is for a place on each such course. [148396]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of offenders receiving alcohol treatment in prisons or in the community is not collected centrally.

However, the 'Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project' (ANARP) published in November 2005 provided the first ever comprehensive picture of alcohol related needs and availability of treatment in England.

ANARP found that in England 1.1 million people are alcohol dependent and estimated that 63,000 people access alcohol treatment each year.

The table shows the numbers of prisoners with a drug problem who engaged subsequently with prison drug treatment services in each of the past five years for which this information is available. Full year figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

	Intensive programme entrants		
	Clinical services includes maintenance, detoxification and alcohol detoxification	*CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare service) initial assessments*	*Intensive programme entrants*
2001-02	41,765	39,338	4,691
2002-03	50,701	51,966	4,386
2003-04	57,891	54,125	4,703
2004-05	53,903	59,025	7,621
2005-06	53,773	[1]74,588	10,743

[1] Includes 8,709 by YPSMS (Young People's Substance Misuse Service for under-18s)
Note:
Individual prisoners may engage in more than one form of treatment.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Information on prisoners waiting for drug or alcohol treatment is not collected centrally.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many detoxifications of prisoners took place in each of the last five years; what the average length of time for detoxification was; and what the average cost was. [148397]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table shows the number of entrants to prison detoxification and drug maintenance programmes for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Full year figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Year	*Entrants*
2001-02	41,765
2002-03	50,701
2003-04	57,891
2004-05	53,903
2005-06	53,773

Notes:
1. These data have been extracted from the Prison Service PSimon database (Prison Service Information for Managers Online).
2. These figures aggregate detoxification and extended prescribing programmes. These two interventions will be reported separately from April 2007.
3. Information on the average length of time for detoxification, or on average cost, is not collected centrally. However, in 2006-07, a total of £77.3 million was provided for custodial drug treatment.

Reproduction: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the *(a)* reference numbers and *(b)* titles of (i) statutory instruments, (ii) departmental circulars and (iii) other documents distributed direct to (A) primary care trusts and (B) strategic health authorities consequential to the provisions of the Abortion Act 1967 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 since 2005; what action was required in respect of each; and what further documents in these categories he plans to circulate in the next 12 months. [148298]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information for 1 January 2006 onwards is set out as follows:

No statutory instruments, Departmental circulars or documents have been issued by the Department to primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) on the provisions of the Abortion Act.

We will be issuing best practice guidance on reproductive healthcare later this year aimed at commissioners and providers emphasising the need to develop strong links between abortion and contraceptive services.

No statutory instruments, departmental circulars or documents have been issued by the Department to PCTs and SHAs consequential to the provisions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. The Department has no plans to circulate any documents in these categories in the next 12 months.

The Government have undertaken a review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, and published the White Paper 'Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act: Proposals for revised legislation (including establishment of the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos)' in December 2006 (Cm 6989). This was followed by publication of the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill on 17 May 2007. Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073098

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_074718

Ritalin

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the trend in the number of Ritalin prescriptions issued; and if he will make a statement; [147501]

(2) what assessment he has made of a general practitioner's powers to increase the dosages of Ritalin for sufferers of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder once an initial prescription has been made by a specialist in child psychiatry. [147504]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no evidence that methylphenidate (Ritalin) is being inappropriately prescribed on a widespread basis. In October 2000, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in a review of the use of methylphenidate (Ritalin) suggested that a great number of children were missing out on methylphenidate who may benefit from it.

In March 2006, NICE published guidance on the use of all drugs used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). They estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

NICE further recommended that drug treatment for ADHD should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements. Drug therapy should only be part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes advice and support to parents and teachers.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew), of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W, on the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, what the composition is of the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group. [147464]

Dawn Primarolo: I am pleased to announce the membership of the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group (PRLOG). The chair of the Group is Ken Jarrold CBE, a director of Dearden Consulting, who has made a significant contribution as a senior manager in the national health service over many years. The Chief Pharmaceutical Officers of the four United Kingdom Health Departments are members—Dr. Keith Ridge (Department of Health), Professor Bill Scott (Scottish Executive Health Department), Ms Carwen Wynne-Howell (Welsh Assembly Government) and Dr. Norman Morrow (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland). Mr. Hemant Patel, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and Mr. Raymond Anderson, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, are also members. Professor Peter Noyce, who provided advice on professional matters to Lord Carter's working party on pharmacy professional regulation and leadership, will be the professional adviser to the PRLOG.

In addition, other members of the PRLOG include:

Ms Tracey Boyce, a senior hospital pharmacist in Northern Ireland.

Ms Judith Cope, Chief Pharmacist at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and honorary senior lecturer, the School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Professor Duncan Craig, Head of Pharmacy and Chair in Pharmaceutics at the University of East Anglia School of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy.

Mr. Robert Darracott, the Chief Executive of the Company Chemists Association.

Ms Jennifer de Val, President of the British Pharmacy Students Association, and a junior hospital pharmacist.

Mr. Stephen Griffin, Director of Personnel and Development at the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust.

Professor Mayur Lakhani CBE, Chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Mr. Christopher Martin, who is active as a pharmacist and as an independent community pharmacy owner in Wales.

Ms Fiona Price, a pharmacy technician, based in Cardiff, Wales.

Mr. Duncan Rudkin, the Chief Executive and Registrar of the General Dental Council, and a former solicitor.

Professor Michael Schofield CBE, a former lay member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, who also has wide experience of the NHS.

Mr. James Semple, managing director of the TLC Pharmacy Group, which provides community pharmacy services in central Scotland.

Ms Rosie Varley OBE, Acting Chairman of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and Chairman of the General Optical Council.

I have asked the PRLOG to provide advice to Ministers on effective action to establish a new regulator, the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), and to identify how leadership within the pharmacy profession can support the GPhC's regulatory role. In doing so, the group will take into account broader action for regulatory reform set out in the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety—the Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century".

Social Services: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the adult social care budget was for *(a)* England and *(b)* Shropshire in each year since 2002-03. [147706]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the adult social care budget is not available. Data for the combined social care budget for both children and adults are shown in the following table.

Budgeted social services expenditure for Shropshire and England between 2002-03 and 2007-08

£000

	Shropshire	*England*
2002-03	57,149	12,618,921
2003-04	69,361	14,102,597
2004-05	69,830	15,585,716
2005-06	75,181	16,874,884
2006-07	77,194	17,753,469
2007-08	83,616	18,476,285

Supermarkets: Labelling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with major supermarkets labelling food packing with larger type of pricing and ingredients for the elderly and the visually impaired. [148790]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency is the Department responsible for food labelling. Label clarity is one of a range of issues on which the Agency is in regular contact with key stakeholders, including retailers.

European Union food labelling legislation, which is currently subject to review, requires that labelling information should be easy to understand, clearly legible, indelible and easily visible. In addition to legislative requirements, the Agency has produced guidance on clear food labelling, which takes into account the needs of the visually impaired by suggesting a minimum font size. This guidance is being revised and will shortly be issued for public consultation.

Price information is covered by the Price Marking Order 2004. This requires that price indications must be clearly legible, unambiguous and easily identifiable. The Agency has received no representations that consumers find such information difficult to read.

Water: Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to review and access the provision of water in schools following his Department's Food in Schools Water Provision project. [148032]

Dawn Primarolo: The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require that a school "shall have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes including a supply of drinking water". The new nutritional standards for school food require that drinking water is provided free of charge to registered pupils. Chilled water is not a requirement of the standards.

We are investing close to £500 million between 2005 and 2011 to assist authorities and schools in improving school food and drink. Ofsted will be monitoring schools' approaches to healthier eating as part of their regular inspections of schools.

Providing free drinking water and meeting the new nutritional standards are key criteria under the healthy eating theme of the National Healthy Schools Programme. We have set a target for all schools to be working towards Healthy School Status by 2009.